Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-187 *27 September 1994*

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

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Chile's Figueroa Addresses Rio Group on Nuclear Issues

PY2609181194 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Sep 94 p C2

[Text] In his address to the Rio Group (GR) troika [past, present, and future Rio Group hosts] and the Japanese foreign minister, Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa yesterday advocated the restablishment and ratification of nondiscriminatory and fair multilateral juridical tools to achieve progress in the field of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Figueroa categorically stated that such documents must safeguard the access to and the development of advanced technology for dual purposes to be used for peaceful purposes. He said that in this day and age this is essential for the developmenet of countries.

Figuereoa addressed yesterday in Brasilia the second meeting of foreign ministers of the GR troika, including the Japanese foreign minister.

The first meeting between the Rio Group and Japan was held in May 1993. With the meeting held in Brazil, the dialogue between the Rio Group and Japan has been institutionalized.

In its capacity as Rio Group pro-tempore secretariat, Chile last year strongly promoted the institutionalization of the dialogue with Japan.

On the occasion of the upcoming UN General Assembly, the GR foreign ministers will again meet with their Japanese counterpart.

Present at yesterday's meeting were Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa, in view of the fact that Chile held the GR pro tempore secretariat in 1993; Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, because Brazil is the current GR pro tempore secretearial; and Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes.

The agenda included international issues as well as those pertaining to Latin American-Japanese ties.

Figueroa was in charge of discussing the nonproliferation of weapons. He said that international security has acquired a different and broader dimension as a result of the end of the Cold War.

He mentioned that contemporary international ties face new challenges and that uncertainty is one of the characteristics of the current times.

He said: "Chile, and other countries in the region, believe that the most acceptable and effective manner to deal with the issue of proliferation is through the implementation of nondiscriminatory and equitable multilateral juridical tools."

Figueroa added that these tools should guarantee access to technology for peaceful purposes on an equitable basis.

He noted the importance of the Tlatelolco Treaty. He also said that Latin America and the Caribbean is a region where countries maintain peaceful and stable ties with one of the lowest indexes pertaining to arms spending in the world. He added that Latin America and the Caribbean have a longstanding tradition of resolving conflicts through negotiations and not through the use of force.

Figueroa stated that in 1992, within the framework of the Geneva Disarmament Conference, it was proposed to hold in Santiago a regional meeting on the promotion of measures of mutual confidence and security.

He concluded by stating: "In this regard, Chile hopes points of agreement and general definitions are found so that we may gradually and prudently achieve an important consensus in which peace and development go hand in hand."

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Bolivian, Paraguayan, Peruvian Presidents Sign Declaration

PY2609175094 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 Sep 94 pp 8, 9

[Article by special correspondents Celso Chavez and Tomas Acosta in Bolivia]

[Text] On 25 September, the presidents of Bolivia, Paraguay, and Peru, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, and Alberto Fujimori respectively, signed a joint declaration in Puerto Suarez in which they state that the inter-oceanic corridor and the Paraguay-Parana Waterway are in the foreground of the three countries' interests. Before this, the three heads of state overflew the Swamp area and the Bolivian town of Puerto Busch, which will be the starting-point of the ambitious project that will link the latter with the Atlantic Ocean.

The "Puerto Suarez declaration," comprising 20 points, includes a detailed report of all the projects that the three nations are undertaking in order to achieve—in the short term—the integration of their territories through a multi-modal system, which will include the aforementioned waterway, highways, and a railroad. This project will be instrumental in boosting productive activities in the three countries and increasing trade flows within the region and with foreign countries.

The three presidents held that the Asuncion-Paraguay-Parana Waterway-Puerto Busch-Puerto Suarez-Ilo Port-Matarani corridor, as well as the highway linking Asuncion, Ilo Port, and Matarani through the Transchaco Route and a highway through Bolivian territory, constituted a "leading axis of trinational interest."

The political will to implement this integration project was evinced by the establishment of a "trinational coordinating board," which will be in charge of promoting and facilitating the necessary measures to complete the physical integration of the three countries and of operating a major transportation system among them. The final document, which summed up the 24-hour presidential meeting, underscores the need to implement the waterway project "taking the ecological impact into account so as to protect and preserve the environment."

It also reports that the three countries are studying the possibility of building a dam at Bahia Negra to regulate the waters of the Upper Paraguay and facilitate the navigation along the waterway.

Presidents Wasmosy, Sanchez de Lozada, and Fujimori agreed to consolidate the ports and free trade zones that have been or will be reciprocally granted in order to foster trade among the three countries.

Wasmosy reported that the River Plate Basin Development Fund (Fonplata) had approved the funding for the paving of the Transchaco Route in Bolivia and from Mariscal Estigarribia to Sargento Rodriguez, in Paraguayan territory. Sanchez de Lozada and Wasmosy expressed their gratitude to Fonplata.

They also stressed the importance of the Paraguay-Parana Waterway as a means of communication within South America and informed the Peruvian president that their administrations had ratified the agreement on river transportation, which will enable the functioning of this waterway.

Comment on Integration

PY2609183494 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 Sep 94 p 8

[Text] **Wasmosy Expects the Waterway to Become a Reality**

Puerto Suarez—President Juan Carlos Wasmosy has said that Paraguay has a deep spirit of integration. Wasmosy added that Paraguay, Bolivia, and Peru are "elaborating a true and authentic American integration" through the Parana-Paraguay Waterway.

"We expect the Parana-Paraguay Waterway will be a reality," Wasmosy said before traveling to Puerto Suarez, on the Brazilian border, where he and the Peruvian and Bolivian presidents toured a waterway center by helicopter.

Wasmosy said it has been decided to build a dam in the area of Arroyo-Concepcion to make possible the access of the population of Puerto Aguirre to the Paraguay River the entire year.

Asked about the sudden replacements in the Armed Forces, Wasmosy said the replacements were "normal," emphasizing that they "will not create a military crisis in Paraguay."

Sanchez de Lozada Valued Integration With Equality

"The time when a project benefited one country and hurt another is over," Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada said, referring to the egalitarian effect of the trans-oceanic highway—which will start in Santos and end in Ilo, in Peru—and the Parana-Paraguay waterway.

"If Ilo can help us ... that is the most we can hope for," Sanchez said, referring to Bolivia's sea outlet problems. Sanchez jokingly said he felt in tune with his two engineer counterparts who were constantly envisioning and proposing large continental integration projects. "This means that if Wasmosy and Fujimori agree, there is nothing to worry about; all I need to do is sign the check," the Bolivian president said, smiling.

Peru Feels Welcome, Alberto Fujimori Said

Peru feels welcome to the Atlantic Ocean, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said after signing a joint declaration with his Paraguayan and Bolivian counterparts. He was referring to the project to pave the road

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that will unite Paraguay with Bolivia through the Transchaco Road and that will end at the Pacific Ocean.

Fujimori praised the Parana-Paraguay Waterway that will link the Pacific with the Atlantic oceans and that is being promoted by Bolivia, Peru, and Paraguay. Fujimori said the project was "a true and authentic example of Latin American integration."

The waterway will permit Paraguayan and Bolivian products to reach the Pacific Ocean through Ilo and Matarani ports, and will permit Peruvian products to reach the Atlantic through the River Plate.

Fujimori and his Paraguayan and Bolivian counterparts, Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, respectively, met over the weekend in a tripartite integration summit to discuss a bi-oceanic (Atlantic and Pacific oceans) interconnecting highway.

Banana Producers Want To Resume Talks With EU

PA2509231394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0705 GMT 23 Sep 94

[By Aldo Rodriguez Villouta]

[Text] Quito, 23 Sep (EFE)—Latin America's banana-exporting countries have taken the first step in Ecuador toward resuming the dialogue with the European Union (EU) to get it to annul the restrictions it imposed on its banana imports from the region.

Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela also announced, during their eight-hour meeting, held in the Ecuadoran city of Machala, their inclination to put an end to the division that the said European policy brought upon them.

The eight Latin American banana-exporting countries signed a declaration that stresses they are not renouncing the "spirit of unity that has traditionally prevailed" among them, as the reestablishment of this spirit will allow them to coordinate their stances to convince the EU that its decision undermines the area's development effort.

Colombia, which was represented at the meeting by a Commerce Ministry adviser, did not sign the "Machala Declaration," as it was called, but Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes explained to EFE that the Colombian Government will review the document and comment afterward on its content.

The declaration explicitly invites to a dialogue the banana-exporting countries from Asia, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP), former European colonies, in whose defense the EU explains its initiative of restricting its annual purchases from Latin America to just 2 million tons.

In contrast, the document did not expressly name the EU when it stressed that "they are inviting to a profound and constructive dialogue all the countries of the area that export the fruit as well as the importing countries."

The EU succeeded in dividing the Latin American banana producers by proposing a quota system with fixed export allocations based on the total 2 million tons from Latin America that it allows each year in its common market.

Costa Rica, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela accepted said proposal, which is supposed to enter into force on 1 October, but the EU announced it was postponing it until 1995, whereas the other five countries that were represented in Machala rejected and fought it.

Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Jose Rossi said the EU postponement opens the possibility of evaluating the quota distribution agreement but added his government has not made a decision.

Rossi insisted that the Costa Rican Government is committed to seeking formulas that allow the Latin American banana producers to have a new joint stance.

Costa Rican Agriculture Minister Mario Carvajal said that if the quota distribution agreement does not enter into force on 1 October, the possibility is opened for his country to review it to either continue with it or cancel it.

The other three countries that accepted the EU's quota distribution agreement have yet to announce their stance on the postponement of its implementation.

The declaration noted that in addition to "the aspiration for unity of action," the delegates reviewed "the basic guidelines so that a technical group can analyze the possibility of creating a regional association of banana exporting countries or restructuring the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB)."

Thus, they opened the door to the possibility of scrapping the 20-year-old UPEB, to which Ecuador and Mexico never belonged as they attributed to it the characteristics of a "cartel" that is not concerned with seeking new markets and the exchange of experiences to improve make the zone's industry technically or otherwise.

The new organization or the UPEB restructuring will base its action, according to the declaration, "in the principles of free trade and freedom of initiative, which serve to reinforce the exports of the fruit."

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Cuba

Castro Views Blockade, Immigration Accord

PA2609172294 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p A-6

[Report on an interview with Cuban leader Fidel Castro by EL NACIONAL special correspondent Manuel Abrizo in Havana; date not given]

[Text] Havana—When he is not speaking and he is relaxed, Castro is a man that lacks charisma. His uncombed beard that comes to a peak looks artificial; it looks like a little roll of wire. Where is the brilliance of this man who is considered one of the key figures of the 20th century in Latin America? Those who know him say his brilliance is found in his integrity, courage, intelligence, and his firm principles. In addition, he is one of the few who has dared to roar at Uncle Sam for over 30 years, and that is an unforgivable thing for a power to do. With a look that reflects his state of mind, Fidel is an affectionate, ironic man, and he is forceful when he speaks:

"The U.S. blockade is like the Himalayas pressing down on the shoulders of the country."

He claims that the U.S. plan is to starve the Cuban people into surrendering, that the naval blockade on the island does not resolve anything, and that "if they drop an atomic bomb on Cuba," this will "not resolve anything" either. The only solution is to end the blockade.

Someone asked the commander if he would like some refreshments, water, rum, or a beer,

"Beer fills me with air, refreshments fill me with air. I would like a little rum and a mojito [Cuban snack], if someone knows how to prepare it." He is given a Bacardi.

People claim that for him there are not enough hours in a day. "I work best at night and early in the morning."

He praises former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a decent man in a country where it is difficult to be a politician and decent. "He is a man without cunning; he is an honest man. I have a very high opinion of Carter."

Although at first he yawns a few times, Fidel is like an erupting volcano when we discuss the blockade, the rafters, and the legalization of the dollar in Cuba.

Regarding the most recent agreement negotiated with the United States about the rafters' crisis and the granting of visas to Cubans, Castro pointed out that the United States acted reasonably and was flexible.

"We consider it as a step forward in resolving basic problems. They do not allow us to work in peace."

He pointed out that from 1990 until June 1994, the United States granted visas to 5,000 persons and accepted 15,000 who left illegally. In those four years, approximately 50,000 Cubans tried to leave illegally from the island.

"Let us say we are not willing to continue serving as border guards for the United States. We declare ourselves on strike."

The Convertible Peso

[Abrizo] Is legalizing the dollar in Cuba considered a shot fired against the revolution?

[Castro] Well, undoubtedly this causes certain inconveniences. We would not have done that under normal conditions. There was one indisputable fact: The dollar was circulating. It came in with tourists, relatives, and friends. There were many people who had dollars and who wanted to buy in the tourists' stores. This created a serious inconvenience for us, and it made it necessary for the police to investigate and stop this type of illegal business. We decided to legalize not only the dollar, but all foreign currencies such as the Spanish peseta, the pound sterling, all foreign currencies. We explained to the people that there were no alternatives. We also tried to profit from the sale of merchandise. The profits would help hospitals and schools, and also the rest of the population. The people understood, because after all, many persons living in Cuba had relatives in the United States and they were receiving economic help. If we (he said, laughing) had the oil of Venezuela and the economic resources of Venezuela, we would not have needed to develop our tourism.

[Abrizo] The truth is that if one does not have dollars in Cuba, one cannot buy anything. The dollar is like a malignant virus.

[Castro] We hope this will not always be the case. These are the circumstances of the special period in which we are living. We hope that one day we can buy everything with our own currency in all stores. We cannot, however, do that now because we do not have resources for selling in pesos those items that today are sold for dollars. We have a long way to go in this area. We would need billions of dollars in order to sell everyone the things sold in those stores. Today we cannot do that. We are taking other measures, such as reevaluating the dollar, developing the economy. This is not an easy task in a blockade. We are not living under normal conditions, but under conditions that are totally abnormal. We are like a besieged area, and anything can happen here. The goal is to get out of the besieged area. We are printing the convertible peso and are going to begin using it so that the people will use that instead of the dollar. It is a matter of national pride.

[Abrizo] Does Cuba have foreign currency to make purchases in the United States if they lift the embargo?

[Castro] No. I was telling that to an American friend of mine when we were talking about his impression of the situation, the steps that could be taken to disengage the

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blockade, and how to go about authorizing the export of food and medicine. I told him that this was not a fundamental issue. The main issue involves the commercial restrictions, the prohibition on credit and investment. These are the issues the country needs in order to develop. If they allow merchandise to come in, the only saving will be in shipping costs. The basic issue is that we be allowed the same opportunities every other country has for growth. Nothing is gained by letting us sell food and medicine, if we have no economic development.

[Abrizo] Is it true that (former Secretary of State) Kissinger proposed lifting the embargo at one time?

[Castro] Yes, but very discreetly. It seems they were considering that. They had begun thinking of appropriate measures. The problem was that we were not aware of this until a little later. There is another issue here: At that time the blockade was not affecting us so much. The blockade really began hurting us when the socialist bloc disappeared and we lost 70 percent of our trade and our imports. What country on earth could have survived the almost five years Cuba has? Let me tell you that neither Sagunto or Numantia would have been able to. You have to see the numbers of people who are ready to resist. I am not saying everyone is ready, but all those who are, do so at great sacrifice. All of us are suffering, but we are not about to trade this nation's independence for a bowl of soup.

A Place in History

[Abrizo] How do you feel about the fact that the Latin American countries have left Cuba on its own?

[Castro] I believe in reality. So far as the Latin American powers are concerned, they have not left us completely alone, but we are still quite alone. The Rio (de Janeiro) agreement follows U.S. policy format. It says to lift the blockade, and at the same time it imposes conditions directly related to the independence and sovereignty of our country. I must say very frankly that we will never accept any conditions that have to do with our country's sovereignty and independence. I do not believe any country that has self-respect would accept this. They are destroying the right to non-intervention, although a majority in Latin America are against violating the principle of sovereignty. Be that as it may, it was two or three countries at the Rio meeting—and not everyone was present—who imposed the conditions, not everyone. They led the meeting to a terrible agreement that associates the lifting of the blockade with conditions on the part of Cuba, that Cuba cannot meet. Lift the blockade and we will do what we see best. Under no circumstances can you link the end of the blockade to issues related to our independence. Everyone at the Rio meeting simply jumped on the band wagon. Among the 14 members, there are many governments that chose to be our friend, no matter what. Brazil and Mexico have behaved wonderfully, to give two examples. Then there is Colombia, as well.

[Arbizo] Do you think the OAS will enter a new phase with the new secretary general?

[Castro] It is unknown. Everything is unknown. What is not unknown is our position: It is an honorable position. It is fundamental that the blockade against Cuba be eliminated. It is the only honorable thing to do, and it must be done unconditionally. We are not asking anyone to make reforms. We do not ask this of any Latin American country, much less of the United States. If we said neo-liberalism is trash and should be eliminated, they would immediately say we are interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

[Arbizo] The United States wants your head....

[Castro] I give it to them. My head for Cuba's independence. My head for the revolution. My head for socialism. I give it away a long time ago . It is easier to choose Bone Key [literally Cayo Hueso, or Key West] over a bone that is difficult to chew.

[Arbizo] Are you concerned about your place in history?

[Castro] I really don't think much about it. I don't have much time to think and believe that history, like everything else, is ephemeral. Can I ask you a question? How long is history? How many things were done by men before Homer's time and before the events that occurred, as we have been told, in Greece and Rome? Very little: 2,500, 2,600, 2,700 years. How long is the future? I believe a man cannot and should not base his actions on his ambition to occupy a place in history. I believe a man should be guided by set ideas, set principles, set values, which is what count, and he should fight for them. Everything else will disappear later. Why should we take great pains for an ephemeral history? When the sun goes out, we won't even have a history. I don't think man can migrate to another planet or star, regardless of how intelligent he is and how many machines he invents, because they are very distant. According to Albert Einstein's theory, man cannot do it because he would have to reach the speed of light, and if he did, he would disintegrate. Thus we must resign ourselves to our solar system and our planet. There will be no history when everything disappears. Could it be that nothing we humble and modest men have done in this life will be worth anything? But you asked me about history.

[Arbizo] Your place in history....

[Castro] I believe it is more important to do your duty, and that is not easy. Sometimes doing your duty creates many misunderstandings. You cannot expect everyone to comprehend and understand. For my conscience and my tranquillity, I do agree with what I have done throughout my life and what I aim to do with what I have left of it... I don't have the smallest doubt about the righteousness and justice of what I have done. If I were born again, I would do the same things again, perhaps better if I had the experience that I have gained in these long years of struggle.

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We defend ideals. We defend our homeland, the revolution, and the achievements of socialism. We cannot talk about continuing to build it, but of preserving what we have. We have had to accept foreign investments and business partnerships. We are doing this seriously. All of those who invest in Cuba can be absolutely certain we will meet our commitments and that nationalization is not in our plans. Everything here was U.S.-owned. To be honest, after the blockade and the Bay of Pigs invasion, we nationalized everything. We had not, however, planned to do everything so quickly.

They (the United States) were not willing to tolerate agrarian reform here, just as they did not tolerate it in Guatemala. What was the cost of the intervention headed by Castillo Armas in Guatemala? I am sure you have read about it. It was in the year 1954: More than 100,000 missing people. There are no prisoners in Guatemala. There are no political prisoners there. They all disappeared, because of agrarian reform legislation.

When we promulgated the Agrarian Reform Law, the United States decided to begin preparations for the Bay of Pigs invasion. The same thing happened in Guatemala. Two years passed. The invasion occurred in 1961. Our sugar quotas were canceled. They took everything away from us, and in turn, we nationalized all U.S. property. That is how this history began. Although we had socialist ideals, our plan was not to implement a socialist system but to make some advancements and improvements. We had a national liberation plan, not a socialist plan.

Agrarian reform affected the major landlords, and in reality it was not a very radical reform. What happened was that they had companies that owned up to 200,000 hectares, and our reform only allowed people to have up to 1,000 hectares, or 400 hectares when the farms were not totally cultivated. It was not a radical reform. In any part of the world, agrarian reform reduces land ownership to a maximum of 20 hectares.

They started organizing the Bay of Pigs invasion. We were invaded. Since most of our industries were U.S.-owned, we nationalized them. In the long run, we nationalized the rest, and the socialist nature of the revolution was proclaimed the same day the attack at the Bay of Pigs began, on 16 April 1961. When we buried our dead from the bombing of our airports, we declared ourselves socialists....

The blockade has been maintained since then, up to the latest controversy (the rafters crisis). Before this controversy, however, there was a socialist bloc, and they said we were their satellite. Now, who knows. We may be God's satellite. There is no other power we can now revolve around. We are all struggling with one hegemonic power. We are the only country facing a blockade. They have already lifted their blockades on China and Vietnam. They are already holding talks with Korea. We, however, receive all of the venom of the world, all of the harassment of the world.

Ministry Source Denies Castro Nearing End of Leadership

PA2609210894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1949 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 26 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Foreign Ministry today denied reports by a U.S. weekly that say Cuban Government officials have advised the United States of a foreseeable end to Fidel Castro's leadership.

"As other Cuban Government officials have stated, Fidel Castro's leadership is not in question. Instead, his role as a leader and his experience will be needed for a long time to come," a ministry spokesman told NOTIMEX today.

"This is not the first time such speculation has been made or even published, with someone taking what a cab driver or elevator operator says and crediting it to high-ranking Cuban officials," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Reports from Washington note U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT reported that "high-ranking Cuban Government officials privately told U.S. officials that they believe Fidel Castro's leadership is in its final days."

The statements appeared in the "Whispers From Washington" section of the weekly's latest issue. It also credited "Castro aides" with warning that there will soon be riots in the streets staged by Cuban youths who live in "poverty worse than the poorest in Miami."

The Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry source called the report "speculation," adding that the report should "prompt laughter and remind people of the old saying: the dead you have buried are quite healthy."

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT said the alleged prediction by Cuban officials who spoke to U.S. colleagues is consistent with U.S. intelligence estimates.

Robaina Makes Statement Before Leaving for UN

PA2509203094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1638 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 25 Sep (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina left for New York today to participate in the 49th period of sessions of the UN General Assembly.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA before his departure, Robaina said Cuba will reiterate its rejection of the U.S. blockade, an issue that is on the General Assembly's agenda for the third consecutive time in the past decade.

In the past two years, the United Nations has issued two resolutions condemning the adoption of unilateral measures against Cuba, such as the siege the United States has maintained against the island for more than 30 years.

At the United Nations, we are going to show just how difficult and cruel the blockade has been and is, the only

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difference being that now there are increasingly more nations that support resolutions condemning these measures, he underscored.

In this sense, he added, there is a very firm attitude of rejection for this policy internally in the United States.

Over the past months, two bills in favor of lifting the blockade were presented in the U.S. Congress, and several people and institutions have questioned the validity of the measure, which has cost the island more than $40 billion.

Robaina explained that he will follow a very broad, intense schedule in New York until 14 October. His schedule includes a follow-up meeting on the development of bilateral relations with several states and meetings with several U.S. groups and Cubans resident in that country.

Regarding possible contacts with Cuban emigrants, the foreign minister said they will be held as a continuation of The Nation and The Emigrants Conference, which was held in Havana last April and preceded by a meeting in 1978.

He said that during his trips abroad he has met with emigrants who, despite their ideological differences with the process on the island, respect the country and condemn the blockade.

When he referred to the possibility of meeting with U.S. legislators, Robaina stated: "We are very interested in acquainting the U.S. Congress with the reality of our country, both its virtues and faults."

Robaina's speech at the United Nations is scheduled for 3 October. This is the young foreign minister's second time attending the UN General Assembly.

Arrives in New York

FL2709001194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Excerpt] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived last night in New York. Robaina is going to participate in the 49th period of sessions of the UN General Assembly, which will begin today, Monday. During his stay in New York, Robaina will complete an extensive agenda, including meetings with several heads of delegations, representatives of the Cuban-American community in New York, and local personalities from various sectors. On 3 October, Robaina will address the General Assembly.

Just before departing Havana, Robaina stated that Cuba will reaffirm its condemnation of the blockade, an issue that appears on the UN agenda for the third consecutive time. Robaina stated that there will be meetings with Cuban emigres, as a continuation of the Nation and Emigre Conference that took place in Havana. [Passage omitted]

Criticizes El Salvador's Calderon Sol

PA2709051294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0109 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 26 Sep (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Roberto Robaina expressed his appreciation today for the support received from Brazil, Mexico, as well as Colombia, and described the conditions suggested by El Salvador to lift the U.S. blockade against the island as "unacceptable."

Robaina pointed out to EFE that positions such as those by Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia "will not only receive an answer and gratitude from Cuba, but will also find a constructive stance in any type of dialogue or exchange."

During their respective addresses before the UN General Assembly, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Colombian President Ernesto Samper, and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim expressed their support for the lifting of the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba during the past 32 years.

Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol called for a "frank and open dialogue" with Cuba, but linked the lifting of the blockade to the island's democratization.

Robaina believes that the position expressed by Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia "corresponds to a coherent and respectful policy toward Cuba, which has strengthened during this last and difficult phase."

With respect to Calderon's address, the Cuban foreign minister believes that "language of threats and foreign conditions" are "unacceptable."

"Cuba simply asks to be treated like the rest of the world" Robaina stated in expressing that he will not accept "isolation, blockade, or any conditions" for his country.

U.S. Nuclear Review Shows Cold War 'Good Business'

FL2609152794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 26 Sep 94

["Our Opinion" commentary by Eduardo Dimas; from the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] There are times when it is difficult to sanction certain policies. Just look at how difficult it has been for President Clinton to justify the invasion in Haiti. To say that the Haitian military government is a threat to the national security of the United States and hemispheric stability is something that would even be difficult for a half-wit to swallow.

Now President Bill Clinton has subscribed to the recommendations by Secretary of Defense William Perry on

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the future of the U.S. nuclear policy. William Perry, who is the head of the Pentagon, indicated that the U.S. President accepted the recommendations of not making changes in the atomic strategy in view of the possibility of instability in Russia and other nuclear powers.

In that sense, John Deutch, the under secretary of defense, pointed out that there is a possibility of retrogression in Russia. In Deutch's opinion, the military team that works on the revision of U.S. nuclear policy took into account the possibility of political instability in the territory of the former Soviet Union and insisted that it would not be wise to make reductions inferior to those stipulated in the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty known Start-2.

The study conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense also recommends that the current number of nuclear weapons deployed in European territory remain the same. According to William Perry's declarations, the United States began, at the conclusion of the past decade, a reduction of its active nuclear arsenal which currently reaches 59 percent of the total that Washington had in 1988, which a decade from now was to be reduced by 79 percent.

Political observers agree that the next summit between President Clinton and his counterpart Boris Yeltsin, which will be held this week, will include as one of its key points the issue of the atomic strategies of the two countries.

The truth is that the situation in Russia does bring to mind serious problems. What is happening in Chechnya and other autonomous republics could be an excuse for any measure by the United States. A country that evolves or withers from socialism to capitalism must necessarily cause doubts with regard to its political stability. Nevertheless, the worst thing that could occur is that several autonomous republics try to achieve their total independence without greater consequences.

The United States' defense budget for the 1994-95 fiscal year is $268 billion, a figure that is not in harmony with the reality of the world, especially when the Russian problems are not military but political, and when Russia is not in any condition to take on an arms race with the United States.

An interesting fact: On 23 September the ruble exchange was 2,440 per dollar, a dazzling figure if we consider that just five years ago the official exchange was one for one.

It is impossible to think that Russia represents a nuclear threat to the United States. Nevertheless, it is a good excuse so that the military-industrial complex can continue obtaining enormous earnings now that its contribution is no longer necessary to the U.S. defense.

If you want my opinion, I believe the Pentagon's recommendations on the future of U.S. nuclear policy is what the military-industrial complex would like to hear, because it allows it to continue obtaining large earnings. Those who thought of using the defense funds for the development of the Third World were only dreaming. The Cold War has ended; the confrontation has ceased; but the only thing that has not changed is the ambition of those who got rich on arms race expenditures. I do not know if President Clinton is aware of this, but in any case it is reality. The ghosts of the Cold War are still good business.

Havana TV Carries Documentary on 'Excludables'

FL2609000394

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0212 GMT on 22 September carries "The Excludables," a 58-minute documentary by Estela Bravo on the treatment of illegal Cuban refugees during their time in U.S. camps and prisons.

"The Excludables" (los excluibles) opens with a reading from the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights and remarks by Marvin Shoob, identified by video caption as a U.S. federal court judge. Shoob, speaking in English with subtitles in Spanish, says people should not be thrown in jail for three years, an indefinite term, or life for public intoxication or for not reporting to the probation officer. Shoob says: "This just does not make sense. If you had told me 15 years ago that this could happen in the United States, I would have said it was impossible."

At 0215 GMT, an unidentified host reports that a U.S. Justice Department plane carrying Cuban deportees—"excludables," as they are reportedly known at INS—discreetly arrives at an isolated landing strip in Havana every 15 days. Video shows men getting off a plane in handcuffs and leg shackles. Several brief interviews with some of the men follow.

One of the "excludables" says of time spent in detention in the United States: "We suffered humiliation, poor treatment, beatings, and racism. Yes, a lot of racism. I was beaten with a stick. They drove many of us crazy and then blamed the Cuban Government. We were given thorazine, a tranquilizer administered in grams. I personally knew many of the people who were given the pills. They were not mentally unstable. They were completely normal. They drove them crazy with thorazine."

Asked by an unidentified correspondent to identify the Atlanta doctor who administered the thorazine, the "excludable" replies: "A Puerto Rican named Martineau."

One of the "excludables" admits that he has AIDS but that he is happy to return to Cuba to die.

Others are shown crying over their suffering.

Most of the "excludables" say that they had no trouble with the law or drugs before arriving in the United States and that they did not deserve the serious and lengthy prison terms they received for traffic violations, thievery, bounced checks, and other petty crimes.

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At 0222 GMT, an unidentified host reports that all of the men participated in the 1980 Mariel boatlift. Many of the "excludables" had reportedly been incarcerated indefinitely and did not have the privilege of unconditional sanctuary in the United States, as other Cubans had up to August 1994. The host adds that while some were detained upon arriving in the United States, most of those guilty of minor crimes were held indefinitedly without formal charges after their sentence had been served. He points out that although Cuba agreed in the 1984 accord to accept 2,746 "excludables," many more remain in U.S. prisons.

Video then shows an unidentified Cuban official addressing a group of "excludables," saying: "While we may not be able to change the past, we can start a new life. We do not have any problems with you. A total of 900 others like you are already here, in Cuba, and can act on their own free will. No one has interfered in their lives, except for the few why may have done something wrong. However, this is a minority. We cannot say that those who have returned have brought difficulties. That is not true. The majority of those who have returned live happily. Try to get close to those who can give you support. Work, live carefree lives, and comfort your relatives, parents, children, brothers, and sisters. I am sure that they will understand you."

At 0227 GMT, an unidentified host reports: "Some still grieve for the spouses and children they left behind in the United States, whom they may never see again. Most are freed after 40 days in prison, after their files have been examined. They are kept in a special section for excludables."

Several of the "excludables" then comment on conditions in U.S. prisons.

One "excludable" says: "All of our human rights were violated. I was imprisoned in the United States for 10 years."

Another says: "We are here now. We already went through all of that. However, the fact remains that a few of our Cuban brothers are still suffering what we suffered."

A third "excludable" says: "The guards in Atlanta killed a young man. I know because I could feel him kicking when they went into his cell and put the pillow over his face. They cuffed his hands and feet and put a pillow over his face. He suffocated. The doctors lied and said that he died of a heart attack. They killed him." The "excludable" then confirms that the prisoner who was killed was named Peralta.

Another "excludable" mentions the use of thorazine in prison, claiming that it turned some into complete vegetables. Another prisoner says that the abuse was mostly psychological and that they will never be able to forget their suffering.

One of the "excludables" then introduces himself to an unidentified correspondent: "I am well known to everyone. I am Fidel Castro's father."

A second "excludable" then warns the correspondent: "He is still suffering the effects of Martineau."

At 0228 GMT, video shows the "excludables" and their relatives hugging, kissing, and crying during a visit, thrilled to see loved ones they have not seen since 1980.

Video then shows one of the "excludables" arriving at his mother's house after having been released. The unidentified host says that this "excludable" and others are unhappy about having left wives and children behind in the United States who are praying for their return.

A former prisoner comments: "Nobody has bothered me at home since I returned to Cuba a year ago. They just told me to keep out of trouble to avoid going to jail again." He claims that U.S. immigration authorities continue to detain prisoners after they have served their sentences, depriving the prisoners of their rights.

Another former prisoner says that his American wife could not stop deportation procedures even with a lawyer since he was Cuban and "Marielito."

Another former prisoner reports: "INS held me for over six years for no reason. I finished my sentence in May 1985 yet was detained until June 1991, when I was deported."

An "excludable" then says: "We are small-time criminals. We get six months for stealing a wallet or clothes off the clothesline. These are hardly crimes when you consider that 12-year-old children in the United States are robbing convenience stores or that mothers in the United States are smoking marijuana in front of their children. They are the real criminals. We are considered criminals merely because we arrived in the country in which we wanted to arrive."

Several of the "excludables" complain about the conditions and alleged human rights violations in U.S. prisons.

One says that he was handcuffed for 18 days.

Another "excludable" reports that he was tied up for 17 days without any food, that he had no mattress and had to sleep on the cold floor, and that he was not allowed to take showers. He claims that the real criminals were treated better than the refugees, even though the refugees were not criminal by nature before arriving in the United States.

At 0237 GMT, video shows file footage of the 1980 Mariel boatlift, when the story of the "excludables" began. The unidentified host refers to the toll the 30-year conflict with the United States has taken in human lives.

"(Wayne Smith)," chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana during the Mariel boatlift, says that the situation

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could have been avoided and that the United States bears responsibility for not discouraging illegal immigration.

Several unidentified Americans comment, including a lawyer who says that Miami Cubans were being racist in not helping the Mariel refugees.

At 0241 GMT, another U.S. official recalls that the civil rights of those Cubans who had served their prison terms were violated when they were sent back to prison in Atlanta indefinitely for minor violations. He says that the United States accused them of violating parole and that they were denied hearings.

The unidentified host then reports: "There were 2,000 excludables here in 1986, none of them serving time for crimes but just simply being held. A congressional committee was formed that year to investigate the situation with the Cubans. The committee's report condemned what was called the storage of detainees and described as brutal and inhumane the indefinite detention of people who had already paid for their crime. It was a fundamental U.S. human rights dilemma."

The host goes on to discuss the use of drugs in the Atlanta prison, which was given a bigger government allowance for taking psychiatric prisoners.

Some of the "excludables" are then shown discussing Bolivar Martineau, the Puerto Rican doctor in charge of the prison psychiatric ward. One of them describes Martineau as the "Mengele of the United States."

At 0243 GMT, Dr. Martineau, now reportedly working in a VA hospital in Dublin, Georgia, responds to the accusations. He describes the Mariel refugees as uneducated, black, lazy, disruptive, and disturbed. He says that only 48 of the more than 1,190 could be considered normal at the time, adding: "As far as I was concerned, the whole prison was a psychiatric lab. It was just fabulous."

An unidentified retired prison guard then confirms that nobody liked Martineau, calling him insensitive and dangerous and saying that Martineau would have worked well under Hitler's regime.

A Cuban architect who worked in another prison says that Martineau tied prisoners to their beds, used drugs to control them, and forced them to stay since more refugees meant bigger government allowances.

"(Denny Maclain)," a former baseball player and now director of a radio program in Ohio, discusses the time he spent in jail with the Cubans: "The idea was to hit them with thorazine: Tie them down, handcuff them to the gurney, and hit them with thorazine. That was the program. Something is wrong when a doctor prescribes and injects it like it were lemonade. It would be outrageous if this guy still has a medical license. God forbid he is still practicing on anyone today."

Martineau says that he is not surprised by the accusations and name-calling. An unidentified correspondent tells Martineau that one of the "excludables" refered to him as Dracula, to which Martineau responds that his accusers are antisocials. He insists that the prison was repeatedly evaluated by the proper authorities, that he did not prescribe medicine with experimental purposes, and that he is being used as a scapegoat.

Video then shows file footage from November 1987, when Cubans rioted in an Atlanta prison after learning that they would be deported. The host says that the riots made many people aware of the situation and that some organizations went public to support the Cubans. He adds that over 60 percent of the Cuban prisoners were released following the revolt and that the authorities admitted that they did not present any danger to society. The host recalls the 1991 crisis at the Talladega prison, in Alabama, to protest abuses and call for justice and fair hearings and points out that Talladega is now a high security prison where Cuban "excludables" are held before deportation.

The unidentified host then recalls that a group of "excludables" was returned to Cuba in 1992, some leaving behind families in the United States.

At 0254 GMT, the American wife of a Cuban "excludable" discusses the unfairness of the situation, particularly since she was not even told about her husband's deportation. She accuses INS of destroying families without reading the files of those they deport.

Several American children are then shown talking about their Cuban parents.

Another American wife is shown crying as she recalls the shock of INS authorities coming to their home to arrest her husband on charges that had been dropped 12 years earlier.

The host reports that although over 1,000 "excludables" have already been deported, the list has grown to over 5,000. He adds that many of the 5,000 "excludables" have already served their prison terms.

The host suggests that (Hugh Casting), INS spokesman, would like to deport all of the "excludables."

Video then shows (Casting) explaining that INS followed the behavior patterns of the "excludables" while they were in the United States to determine whether they should be repatriated or not. He advises that any "excludable" can be charged without being convicted since those who reportedly have records are likely to commit crimes again. He admits that INS runs the risk of deporting innocent people in such cases.

The host notes that human rights groups find the legal aspects of all this confusing and are amazed at the less-than-thorough hearings, in some cases with a misinterpretation of files or no files at all. He claims that some cases were sent to INS in Washington for a final decision

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even after after a recommendation for release had been issued, adding that U.S. authorities described this process as arbitrary. The host also suggests that the courts refuse to hear the cases of those whom the U.S. Government believes do not have the right to be in court in the first place.

Judge Shoob says he believes that his decision that Cubans should receive fair hearings was overturned because a mistake was made in the beginning in classifying them as dangerous and that nobody wanted to back down on that top-level U.S. Government decision.

At 0301 GMT, the host reports that "excludables" are currently being held in 34 prisons throughout the United States.

Video then shows an official at an Indiana prison saying that the majority of Cubans are not serving sentences but are merely being held by INS, adding that the fact that INS cannot deport them creates a very difficult situation.

The host claims that 140 Cubans are being held without charges in the Indiana prison.

Several of the prisoners describe their experiences, saying that they have been beaten by violent criminals or complaining about the hearings. One recalls the case of a young Cuban who, denied freedom a second time by a review board, committed suicide. Another speculates that the United States is waiting for Fidel Castro's regime to fall before deciding his fate, saying that he and others are trapped by political circumstances in the meantime.

An unidentified American then says that although the United States has admitted that treating the Mariel refugees this way violates international law, the courts have upheld the U.S. Government's ruling that international law does not apply.

Judge Shoob feels that it will become clear in time that the U.S. Government has made very bad judgment calls. He warns that the U.S. Government will be embarrassed by this and that it will go down in history that this happened in the United States. He closes the documentary: "I never thought this could happen in America, but it can."

At 0310 GMT, the documentary ends.

Economic Cooperation With Mexico Assessed

PA2609031394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1443 GMT 25 Sep 94

["Exclusive" report by Silvio J. Mendiandua: "Steps Toward Economic Cooperation"]

[Text] Havana—Cuba and Mexico are taking firm steps toward economic cooperation based on prosperous joint projects and their political resolve to broaden and intensify their traditional ties of friendship and mutual cooperation.

Respect for the people's sovereign right to self-determination, which both nations defend, cemented their political ties and united them during international conflicts following the triumph of the revolutionary process on 1 January 1959.

Likewise, the two states agree on foreign policy issues, which is proven by the fact that 85 percent of the time their voting is exactly the same at the United Nations or other international organizations.

These foundations are the strength behind Cuban-Mexican relations, which have achieved a level of excellence, a term used by their foreign ministries at the conclusion of the Sixth Intergovernmental Commission Meeting (19 and 20 September), which dealt with their general relations in the areas of politics, economics, and cooperation.

A brief look at the agreements achieved in various areas such as energy, light industry, tourism, as well as culture, education, and scientific-technical cooperation, shows that their relations have achieved a considerable degree of maturity.

They also have long-range plans. They are trying to move from a simple plan to expand trade and bilateral cooperation to a more comprehensive plan in which binational companies will be established for the purposes of production, the creation of services, and competition in international markets.

This is the case with the oil refinery project, the latest agreement signed within the context of the last Intergovernmental Commission meeting, and it is also the case with the plan to create a joint telecommunications firm to improve telephone services on the island.

The oil refinery project will call for an investment of $200 million, and its goal is to produce gasoline, naphtha, and other by-products at the Cienfuegos refinery in the central part of the country, for the domestic market or for export.

The Cuban side will maintain 51 percent of the shares, and with the sale of 49 percent of the remaining package to the Mexican state consortium Mexpetrol, Cuba will pay back its debt of $340 million to Mexico, according to Mexican Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello Macias, who paid a two-day visit to Cuba.

This agreement, according to experts, is a creative way of eliminating outstanding debits and operating—following a process of technological conversion—a facility on the island that has been virtually paralyzed.

The processing volume of 65,000 barrels per day will require light and heavy oil from Mexico, Cuba, or any other country, PRENSA LATINA has learned from sources close to the agreement's negotiators.

Mexpetrol will benefit from a high quality product that will have a secure market (Cuba) and from an investment that could be ready to yield a profit in a short amount of time.

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The other economic agreement that has claimed the attention of the international community is the one that creates a joint telecommunications company between the Intectel company (Cuba) and the Domos Financial Group (Mexico).

[Words indistinct] $1.5 billion with a deadline of six years. The new project will include telephone services, telefax, cable television, and other services.

The joint company will repair 200,000 telephone lines in Cuba and will expand those that already exist with a view to providing 11 telephones for every 100 inhabitants by the time the investment process concludes within the established period.

Added to these agreements are others signed previously, such as the joint operation of the Mariel cement plant in northern Havana and the Tuxpan hotel in the famous Varadero resort, 140 km east of the Cuban capital.

Other projects for the prodution and export of glass and construction materials are also included in the Cuba-Mexico business package and will strengthen the strategy of economic cooperation and integration designed by both countries.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello said in Havana that "the business sector's participation in this new phase of the bilateral relationship will guarantee the implementation of an agenda that has been enriched by the important economic reforms promoted by the Cuban Government."

"These efforts have motivated the Mexican Government to continue taking an active interest in expanding its relations with Cuba and creating strategic means of multiplying every form of exchange and contact between the two countries."

Another issue that sets both nations on the common path of integration is their participation in the Association of Caribbean States [AEC], which supports each country's internal efforts and contributes to strengthening the active presence of the region at other international forums.

The AEC represents a market of over 200 million people, with a gross product close to $522 billion and $180 billion worth of international trade.

Diplomatic sources have acknowledged that the same can be said of the support Cuba and Mexico offer the Ibero American summits, a forum that takes into consideration cultural similarities, the possibilities of establishing mutual agreements, and respect for the political, economic, and social diversity of participating nations.

Two issues that are highly valued by both nations will close the cycle of shared political topics: Mexico's support for the struggle against the U.S. economic blockade and Cuba's recent decision to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty, which prohibits nuclear weapons in Latin America, a decision that was widely applauded by Cuba's Mexican neighbors.

Because of its multiphase nature, Cuban-Mexican relations also include ample cooperation in other areas such as agriculture, fishing, aquiculture, and other branches of production.

Likewise, culture, education, sports, and technical-scientific development round off a bulky dossier of exchange agreements and bilateral technical consultations aimed at fostering the economic and social development of the two neighboring countries.

Joint Venture With Mexico To Build Cienfuegos Refinery

PA2509224994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1718 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 25 Sep (PL)—A joint Cuban-Mexican company will start by year's end the second phase of a petroleum refinery project in Cienfuegos, in the center of the island, the director of the Cuban side said today.

Carlos Triana, who heads Cuba's Cupet Company, which is involved in the project with Mexico's Mexpetrol Company, added that the investment is estimated at about $200 million.

It will create the infrastructure to process light and medium crude containing only 2 percent sulphur, Triana told the local financial weekly OPTIONS.

He pointed out that the Mexican technology will be added to the almost entirely Soviet technology currently at the refinery and this will be a positive development due to the proven experience and effectiveness that Mexico has shown in industrial projects and businesses.

The Cupet executive said that the joint venture will sell its fuel production at market prices and to any buyer, including local consumers.

The production capacity of the refinery in Cienfuegos stands at 65,000 barrels per day, and the initial phase has been operating for the past four years but with low efficiency.

Triana added that his company does not rule out the signing of similar agreements involving the other two important refineries [words indistinct] one in Havana and the other in Santiago de Cuba, but there are yet no projects or talks.

Assembly Criticizes Venezuelan Deputies

PA2509142994 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Sep 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

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[Text] The Permanent Committee for International Relations of the Cuban parliament has issued a statement publicly criticizing an agreement adopted recently by the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies as superficial, meddlesome, and unfriendly.

The communique, which was published by the Cuban newspaper GRANMA, rejected the call made by certain blocs of the Venezuelan legislature to the Cuban Government to launch what they termed a process of changes based on the effective, sovereign participation of the Cuban people.

The Cuban statement reaffirmed our people's sovereign right to continue, without foreign meddling or pressure, the process of improving society based on their own ideas and national independence and reaffirmed that Cuba will never accept any conditions that undermine such principles.

The document published in GRANMA on Saturday recalled that during the debate on Cuba, certain Venezuelan representatives voiced political ideas that reflect absolute injustice and ignorance of the Cuban reality and which denigrate the national dignity of our Republic.

The communique added that the opinions of numerous Venezuelan deputies who cited the harassment policy and the U.S. blockade as being among the external factors that are exacerbating the current situation in Cuba were deliberately disregarded. The statement congratulated other Venezuelan blocs and deputies who opposed the anti-Cuban maneuver.

The International Relations Committee of the Cuban legislature recalled that the most serious aspect of the Venezuelan legislators' meddlesome decision is that it was made on the eve of the signing of a migration agreement between Cuba and the United States.

Cubana de Aviacion To Inaugurate Flight to Brazil

PA2509032294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2107 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 23 Sep (PL)—The commercial airline Cubana de Aviacion will increase the number of its flights to Brazil shortly with the inauguration of a weekly flight to this Brazilian southeastern city on 9 October.

Manuel Vasquez, Cubatur Tourist Enterprise director in Rio de Janeiro, told PRENSA LATINA that there are good possibilities for increasing the number of Cubana de Aviacion flights to this former Brazilian capital.

The official explained that local vacationers are very interested in traveling to the Caribbean island, and this is a good business incentive for the airline.

Brazilian entertainment celebrities, including the cast of the Brazilian soap opera Felicidad, aired on Cuban television, and tourists will travel on the inaugural flight to Havana.

At the moment, Cubana de Aviacion has one weekly flight to Sao Paulo. Beginning in October, the itinerary will be Havana-San Paulo-Rio de Janeiro-Havana.

Laotian Foreign Minister Ends 'Friendly' Visit

FL2709003694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat concluded his four-day official, friendly visit to Cuba this Sunday. During Somsavat Lengsavat's visit, bilateral relations were strengthened. Before his departure, Somsavat Lengsavat held several meetings with Cuban authorities, among which was a meeting with the heroine of the attack on the Moncada Barracks, Melba Hernandez. Hernandez is also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Finance Minister Views 'Positive' Economic Signs

FL2609020494 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Finance and Prices Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez told a National Association of Cuban Economists meeting in Santiago de Cuba that although it is too soon to speak of economic recovery, there have been some positive signs:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Previous trends have changed. These trends and the corrective measures to reduce costs and the budget deficit could soon lead us to a period of economic recovery. This would mean economic growth or recovery, which is not present at this time. [end recording]

Rodriguez and Juan Carlos Robinson, Cuban Communist Party first secretary in Santiago de Cuba Province, chaired the inaugural session of the fourth congress of the National Association of Cuban Economists. A total of 250 delegates represented the province's 2,000 economic workers at the meeting. Meetings like these will be held throughout Cuba, with the main national meeting scheduled for early 1995. The major issues up for debate were those affecting the Cuban economy.

Rodriguez met the press afterward on some of these issues. He said that measures to correct the economy have reduced excess circulation by 1.2 billion pesos in only three months:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We can already see how the public's decision is affecting the economy. People see money and the value of money differently. [end recording]

However, Rodriguez warned that excess circulation figures remain high—over 10 billion pesos—explaining

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why other measures continue to be implemented. Rodriguez said that the goal is very clear:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] The value of work must be reevaluated. This will be an incentive to increase production, which is what will pull us out of the present economic situation. [end recording]

'Instability' Said Main Economic Problem

FL2609204194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Jose Luis Rodriguez, finance and prices minister, stated that financial instability continues to be the main problem of the Cuban economy. Rodriguez made this comment during the fourth congress of economists in Santiago de Cuba Province. Correspondent Carlos Sanabria Marrero has more details:

[Sanabria] During a speech to economists in Santiago de Cuba, Rodriguez said that the measures implemented for restructuring the economy have begun to bear positive results:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] With the adoption of these measures, and up until 15 September, approximately 1.2 billion pesos have been collected. In other words, we are closing the first 15 days of September with an excess of 10.665 billion pesos in liquidity. [end recording]

[Sanabria] In another part of his speech to the economists, Rodriguez referred to dispositions aimed at stimulating production, and gave as an example the 160,000 workers who are currently self- employed in Cuba.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] It has been demonstrated that when we focus on the problem correctly, we can obtain positive results. We must do away with the old mentality and the old habits and prejudices because self-employment has not only grown, but will continue growing. We must therefore get used to the idea of working with 200,000 or 300,000 self-employed workers. We must prepare ourselves for this new situation. Among other things for creation of the farmers' markets, we must increase the supply levels available to the population at prices lower than those of the black market, and as a mechanism capable of stimulating increased production. [end recording]

Agriculture Minister Sees End to Black Market Food

PA2409040394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2223 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 22 Sep (PL)—The opening of the farmers markets, slated to open nationwide on 1 October, will serve as an antidote to the black market and the plundering of food supplies, leaders in this sector have stated.

The news about the farmers markets, the main topic of conversation this week, was received with joy, surprise, and hope by the majority and as a ominous specter for the world of the speculators.

As part of the dissemination of the new system of farmers markets, Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan today told local reporters that these places of distribution will eliminate the black market in many products and will discourage the theft and diversion of food.

When questioned about the impact of the agriculture stores, under the category of personal account services, Jordan acknowledged that the new activity will surpass the limits of the former laws on individual businesses, because with these markets other local businesses, such as the manufacturing of containers and fruit and vegetable preserves, will emerge.

A strong resurgence of vendors of manufactured products is anticipated. They will have access to the new markets under the sole condition of complying with sanitary handling laws and a sworn statement on where the merchandise was manufactured, how much, and its price.

The transportation of the products to be sold at the farmers markets will be the responsibility of the participants, and, therefore, an increase in the need for transportation is anticipated.

Minister Jordan and Orlando Lugo Fonte, president of the National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba, concurred in emphasizing that everything will be geared to the system's main goal; that is, to see a substantial increase in the production of food supplies and to facilitate the supply to the people.

The government also hopes that all idle land will be put to use, because this will allow the state to eliminate gradually state subsidies to this sector.

According to figures disclosed by Minister Jordan, in 1993 the areas dedicated to the state companies self-sufficiency' cooperatives and individual farmers produced more tubers and vegetables than those harvested by the state collection center. From the self-sufficiency acreage, 26 million quintales [one quintal equals 46.5 kg] were harvested as opposed to 25 million harvested by the state collection centers.

The largest production of tubers and vegetables in Cuba occurred in 1993 when 33 million quintales were harvested and the worst was in 1970 when only eight million quintales were harvested.

Jordan pointed out that no one knows the magnitude of the undeclared production not controlled by the state.

The plan was conceived by its authors as a battle and not as a panacea. It also seeks to release the central organization and the local agriculture offices from the tasks of marketing, thereby allowing them to devote time to their main duty; that is, to boost production.

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In referring to the shortage of supplies that has affected Cuban farming in the past years, Jordan said that unlike previous practices, fertilizers and facilities for farming will be distributed initially to the most efficient producers and those who deliver more to the state.

Moreover, the use of an incentive system for crops that were nearly forgotten such as henequen, abandoned by the work force, was implemented through the delivery of bonds for the purchase of articles that are only sold in the trade infrastructure in dollars.

With regard to cattle raising, an incentive system was also devised with the promise of machetes, fences, clothing, when the supply promised to the state is achieved.

Meanwhile, for those specialized farms and cooperatives growing rice, coffee, cocoa, fowl, and pigs that cannot transport their products to the farmers markets, the government has anticipated the sale of amounts that surpass the volume contracted by the state at farmers markets prices.

Jordan said that in the first stage beginning on 1 October, 15 markets will be opened in the capital, one in each municipality, with those with more residents such as old Havana and center Havana having top priority.

Test sales in rural cities had better results than expected with the collection of 2 million pesos in one city in two days. This demonstrates, in addition, that it can be used to improve local finances, adversely affected by a 12 billion pesos' surplus of cash at the end of the first six months of 1994.

In addition, the markets will be financed through a tax collection, charging for rented stands, as well as other services offered to the participants.

According to what the minister said, the success of the trade initiative will depend on the pace that the markets can integrated and that eventually, the rationing of food supplies will be eliminated.

Farmers Market Hours, Taxes Reported

FL2409182694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The 15 farmers markets that will open in Havana City on 1 October are prepared to receive products 24 hours a day and will be open to the public from 1000 to 2300 GMT. Each market will be divided into sections as follows to facilitate sales: tubers, green vegetables [verduras], vegetables [hortalizas], fruits, and flowers; live animals; meat; and prepared or partially prepared foods. It was also announced that producers in the cities of Havana and Santiago de Cuba who participate in the farmers markets will pay a five-percent tax on what they sell, based on the prices they set for their products. The tax is set at 10 percent in the rest of the provincial capitals and 15 percent in the municipalities.

[Radio Progreso adds during the same program: "Political and agricultural leaders reiterated in Havana on 23 September that farmers who participate in the farmers markets starting on 1 October should first guarantee the supply of products for the people and social consumption. It was noted during a seminar of Havana producers, who are responsible for feeding 25 percent of the Cuban population, that the state will put 80 percent of all that is produced in the way of major products toward contracts and sales. Candido Palmero, Politburo member, said that Havana producers would have to plant more than 2,000 caballerias of various types of produce before the winter season to be successful. He pointed out that those units and individuals can go to farmers markets in other provinces, as well as those in Havana, while some who harvest carrots, garlic, lettuce, onions, watercress, tomatoes, and peppers will be linked with markets in Havana City."]

Lugo Evaluates Farmers Market Trial Runs

FL2709022594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Some but not all farmers markets will begin operating on 1 October. There have been trial runs, tests of these farmers markets. We ask Orlando Lugo Fonte, president of the National Association of Small Farmers, for his evaluation of these trial runs.

[Begin recording] [Lugo] Well, my evaluation of these trial runs is very positive. I say this, not just based on the participation of producers in the market, but also because of the prices at the markets. We have had very good experiences here in Sancti Spiritus, in Ciego de Avila, and even in Havana Province. Rice started off at 25 pesos per pound, and at the end of the day was down to 6 pesos per pound. [end recording]

Spread throughout Sancti Spiritus Municipality's neighborhoods are 43 small markets (plazitas) and five shops (bodegas) have this Sunday given the population a sample of what is to be as of 1 October. Pork meat, mutton, tubers, fruits, vegetables, homemade sweets, among other things, were available. On that day, all products that were on sale were from the self-consumption section of the participating production sites.

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Where are you from?

[Unidentified speaker] From the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's] of La Nueva Junta.

[Unidentified speaker] La Yayabo Leather Factory.

[Unidentified speaker] Interior Ministry in Sancti Spiritus.

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[Victor Fernandez, provincial representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, identified by caption] In this market we have acquired some experience of what is needed and how we can reach everyone.

[Unidentified speaker] Well, I bought 10 pounds of yucca at five pesos and six pesos of yam—what you see there.

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, we can buy what we need for home.

[Unidentified speaker] Good prices. They have everything.

[Unidentified speaker] No, no, things are not cheap, but I need them. In the black market, things are more expensive than here. [end recording]

In Sancti Spiritus on Sunday, over 10,000 quintales of different products have been sold.

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Did you buy what you wanted or were there limitations?

[Unidentified speaker] No, freely. I bought plenty of everything. I have this sack full of things.

[Carlos Lage, Politburo member] Now there are farmers, cooperatives, UBPC's, state farms, and self-consumption production enterprises. We think that in time this could mean more products. On the other hand, it could help keep prices accessible, even though they will always be higher than the prices of products in the quotas. In any case, a certain number of people or all the people at least sometimes will be able to pay these prices. We have seen that there is a great number of products available. Some are more expensive and others less expensive, but the people have been able to buy these products. I think that the important thing now would be that this effort translates into increased production. [end recording]

This was more than just a mere trial run for the farmers markets. The people alleviated their food needs and had the chance to satisfy other needs, of a spiritual nature. With the hope of soon seeing this experience multiplied, we leave Sancti Spiritus.

Alarcon Convenes Voter-Delegate Consultation Process

PA2609154394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Report by Barbara Betancourt; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has called the third period of progress reports to voters to be held between 15 October and 30 November this year.

[Begin Alarcon recording] When the comrades receive this notification, they must begin working based on the specific characteristics of each area. The most important thing is to pick the best moment, opportunity, place, and appropriate conditions so the largest number of voters possible can really participate.

The most important thing is that people participate, that people are there, and that they want to be there. This has an impact on the quality of the meeting.

In certain places, it is absolutely indispensable to continue waging an all-out battle so the administrative officials who are involved in aspects that everyone knows will be discussed, aspects that concern the population and prompt their complaints, will attend. If the date, time, and place must be changed to guarantee their presence, none of those aspects must be the main point. The important thing is to have the largest possible number of people, citizens, constituents in an area participate in these discussions. We want everyone who has something to say, something to tell the people regarding a specific problem, to be present.

But I also hope these meetings become a true opportunity for the people to participate and become players in the problems they face in every area. [end recording]

Alarcon recalled that the progress report to voters responds to the constitutional principle that all elected officials must submit themselves to an evaluation by their constituents.

[Begin Alarcon recording] It is not enough to discuss proposals, which is obviously an important part of this meeting, but we must take this opportunity as the most important political meeting of a group of people at a place where the sovereign people gather. This will enable the people to analyze the most important issues in an open, frank dialogue. We hope people wont just be thinking about when these meetings are over before they even begin. That is why it is important to pick a time when people can really sit down and spend all the time they want discussing important issues that concern them. We do not intend to just fulfill formal goals.

We do not see...[pauses] we must eliminate from this progress report to voters the idea that we are formally fulfilling a requirement. This process must be viewed as a very valuable instrument for exercising the people's government, fulfilling the tasks of delegates, and achieving the deputies' and delegates' basic objective of establishing communication with the people. We must not view this as an nuisance but as a necessary, appropriate, and useful instrument.

With the difficulties the people are facing and the problems the country has, this process must also be viewed as a vital instrument for mobilizing the people to face these problems. We must face the problems through the open, frank, earnest discussion, trusting in the fact—let nobody doubt this—that our people are truly revolutionary. [end recording]

Finally, the Cuban parliament president stressed that the dialogue with voters must seek solutions to community

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problems in a process that is parallel with our political system. In this regard, this process is much better than those employed in other so-called democratic models.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities

FL2509212694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee monitored through 24 September.

Yadira Garcia has accompanied Fidel Castro's coordination and support team on its visit to Matanzas Province sugarcane enterprises. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 21 Sep 94)

Carlos Lage, Ricardo Alarcon, Ulises Rosales, Abel Prieto, and Esteban Lazo have participated in a two-day workshop on Cuba's economic and political conditions at the University of Havana's Interchange Center. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 94)

Julio Teja has toured the Camilo Cienfuegos Hospital, in Sancti Spiritus. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 23 Sep 94)

Carlos Lage has visited the nickel production areas of northeastern Holguin Province. (Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 94)

Nelson Torres has participated in a meeting on sugarcane production in San Cristobal Municipality, Pinar del Rio Province. Participants concluded that the vast majority of problems stem from the administrative cadres, who have not been reacting intelligently or quickly enough. Torres pointed out that the autonomy of the basic cooperative production units (UBPC) should not be confused with anarchy and disorder and that it is the responsibility of the cooperatives, as representatives of the state in the new production structure under which the sugar industry now functions, to make sure that they comply with the laws of the state contract. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 94)

Esteban Lazo and Candido Palmero chaired a meeting of Agriculture Ministry representative on 20 September. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1941 GMT 20 Sep 94)

Nelson Torres has met leaders of 128 sugar industry UBPCs in Granma Province. He attributed the so-called inefficiency of many of the UBPCs to their inconsistency and poor attitude, citing the general disregard for the eight-hour work day as an example. (Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Sep 94)

Julian Rizo Alvarez has called on the UBPCs in Camaguey Province to be more organized when carrying out their work. Rizo stressed that hard work is needed at the present time. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Sep 94)

Power Outages Result of Matanzas Plant Maintenance

FL2409021594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] The Electric Union advises that in recent days, outages have increased due to breakdowns in some generating units, which coincides, as the population knows, with the general maintenance of the 330-megawatt unit in Matanzas. Repairs are already underway and by the beginning of next week, the maintenance on the Matanzas unit should be completed, permitting the resumption of the scheduled program.

Roundup of Economic Developments

FL2509220594

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Cuban economic developments monitored through 24 September.

Sugarcane planting and weeding efforts are behind schedule in Camaguey Province. Only 38 percent of the planting goal has been reached, hindered by an insufficient work force, short workdays, a certain lack of control, and too much rain. These conditions have affected southern Camaguey most. The province has only reached 45 percent of its weeding goal. A total of 24 percent of the province's sugarcane fields are affected by weeds to some extent. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 94)

Camaguey Province is behind in its sugarcane planting and weeding efforts. Weeds cover 50 percent of the fields at some complexes. Nearly 75 percent of the fields at the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes sugarcane complex planted during the winter campaign are covered with weeds. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 21 Sep 94)

Santiago de Cuba Province's eight fishing facilities are more than 300 tonnes behind in their freshwater catch. Only 82 to 85 tonnes of the 160-tonne goal will have been caught by the end of September. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 94)

Santiago de Cuba's military-industrial enterprise has just completed the prototype for an "omnibus trailer" (omnibus remolcado) that can carry up to 70 seated passengers, luggage carriers, and an auxiliary fuel tank that will make interprovincial travel without refueling possible. The Revolutionary Armed Forces will use the vehicle to transport personnel. Cuba saves $15,000 by producing it in Cuba and with a minimum amount of foreign currency. Design department technicians and nonstandard equipment factory workers developed the idea and are under contract to produce five more "omnibus trailers"

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by 1995. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 94)

Cuban cigarette production has jumped from 1 million packs of cigarettes a day in September 1993 to 2 million packs a day in September 1994. New administrators and efforts to focus on workers have promoted increased production and honesty in some factories. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep)

Las Tunas Province sugar workers are trying to move the sugarcane recovery process along. A total of 19,000 caballerias have been weeded to date, only 77 percent of the total area to be weeded. Only the Antonio Guiteras and Majibacoa agroindustrial complexes have met their weeding goals. While the winter planting campaign called for 196 caballerias to be planted by August, only 136 caballerias—68 percent of the goal—have been planted to date. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Sep 94)

Nelson Almuina, assistant economic director at the Cuba Steel Enterprise, in Havana, told an efficiency assembly on 23 September that the enterprise lost about 2 million pesos in 1993. However, he pointed out that production has stabilized in 1994 and that the enterprise has increased revenues by 48,000 pesos to date following implementation of the economic efficiency plan. Absenteeism and the need for raw materials are just some of the enterprise's problems. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Sep 94)

Pinar del Rio Province's Peoples Council Assembly met the province's main cadres on 23 September to discuss implementation of the farmers markets, milk and tobacco production, and winter planting. A total of 16 farmers markets will open starting on 1 October, including three in the provincial capital. One of the markets will offer "prepared goods" (productos elaborados). Seminars will be held in the 14 municipalities on 24 September to discuss implementation at the local level and to select personnel to perform the planned functions in the farmers market. Tobacco products will not be permitted in the farmers markets until the tobacco sector has met its scheduled production. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Sep 94)

More than 1.5 million containers of herbal remedies have been produced in Cuba so far this year. This is the highest figure ever, proving that the country is making efforts in this area in light of the medicine shortage. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Sep 94)

Haiti

Jonassaint Convenes National Assembly for 4 Oct

FL2609195494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1800 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] It must be said that there are contradictions regarding those convenings, because we just received a presidential order issued by the provisional government saying that, under the report of the ministers of the interior and national defense and justice and following deliberations in Council of Ministers, the legislative body is convened in extraordinary session on Tuesday, 4 October, at 1100 for a vote on the amnesty law.

Efforts for Return of FNCD Legislators Under Way

FL2609180594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] The parliament has been convened in National Assembly for 28 September by the president-in-exile. Everything has been set up for a massive return of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] parliamentarians. Deputy Pierre Canel-Rindal confirmed that before the microphone of Signal FM this morning.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Canel-Rindal, in progress] ...is that he is the only person who has the power to convene the parliament when it is on vacation. We parliamentarians [words indistinct] do our job so we can work in the spirit of the reconciliation being advocated by the president so as to allow this country to achieve pacification. We want the Haitian military to understand that today we must work toward democracy in the country, and that even they cannot survive in this country without democracy. They can understand that our current situation is the result of their mistakes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think all the FNCD people—especially those who are very far away—will have time to return to the country by 28 September?

[Canel-Rindal] (?We think) we are working on that. The FNCD has already taken that in hand. We have means to see that all deputies can enter so we can work, so we can have democracy established in the country. The military must understand that democracy is the only means through which people can live in peace, and they will be the first ones to benefit from democracy. [end recording]

Senator: Only Aristide Can Convene Parliament

FL2609173194 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] President Aristide is the only person who can convene the parliament, according to Senator Turneb Delpe. In his statement Mr. Aristide calls on countries such as the United States to put an end to the unilateral sanctions, particularly by restoring the air connections with Port-au-Prince. Let us listen to explanations by Sen. Delpe.

[Begin Delpe recording, in Creole] The law is to be sent before me by the president of the republic. If you see parliamentarians saying that they are debating the law, you can conclude that they are engaging in demagoguery, because the parliament cannot convene itself. Concerning the people who are saying that the parliament is sitting permanently, such a circumstance is not provided

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for anywhere in the Constitution. So the only person who can convene the parliament, the only act that the parliament can perform at this time and that has a legitimate and legal value is an act for which the president of the Republic of Haiti has convened it to debate and decide. [Words indistinct] once the president of a country sends a law before a parliament, the parliament is duty-bound to debate the law referred to it. It does not have the right to refuse because this is a requirement. [end recording]

De Facto Foreign Ministry Protests Against Schrager

FL2609221194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a note of protest to the U.S. Embassy against, quote: inflammatory statements by Mr. Schrager, in addition to intolerable interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Haiti, deliberately inciting the population to violence, and outrageously sabotaging the Port-au-Prince agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs claims that since 19 September, the day after the signing of the agreement, foreign diplomats, including Mr. Schrager, have accelerated their manipulation and disinformation tactics. Beyond serious breaches of the Vienna Convention, there is in this systematic approach an indecency in wanting to humiliate the population of a country that is facing difficult, tragic times.

The note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concludes by reminding all members of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince of their elementary duty of restraint.

FADH Issues Communique on Cap-Haitien Shooting

FL2609143894 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] An operation consisting of recovering war weapons in the possession of civilians [words indistinct]. In fact, the General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] informs the public in general and those concerned in particular that as of today, 26 September, all war weapons held by civilians will be recovered. For the good development of this operation, the military garrisons have been established as points where those weapons are going to be received. A timetable has been established as follows: As of today, 26 September, the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, the Military Department of the North, the Military Department of Artibonite, the Military Department of the Southeast, and the Military Department of the West; as of Thursday, 29 September, the Military Department of the Northeast, the Military Department of Grand'Anse, the Military Department of the South, and the Military Department of the Center.

At the same time, the FADH General Headquarters reports that on the morning of 25 September at about 0840 a delegation presided over by the FADH commander in chief went to Cap-Haitien with General Shelton, commander of the U.S. forces, in order to inquire about the incident that occurred in that city on the evening of 24 September. It was revealed that a U.S. unit had fired at the First Police Company of Cap-Haitien, causing head wounds and grave injuries to 10. So far, four dead have been identified as military. The statements collected on the spot did not support establishing a provocation by members of the Cap-Haitien police as the origin of the incident, after which the population invaded and looted [words indistinct] the headquarters of the First Company [words indistinct] in the presence of U.S. forces, this press release from the General Headquarters points out.

For the moment, peaceful citizens, entrepreneurs, professionals, and families in Cap-Haitien are living in anguish, seeing that the situation has degenerated so much that it has imperiled lives [words indistinct], the military communique continues.

The FADH condemns this brutal and odious deed, which has sowed confusion and mourning in the Haitian family, contrary to the 18 September 1994 agreement whose objective is to promote peace and to avoid violence and bloodshed. Furthermore, the FADH informs that measures have been taken so the dead kept by the U.S. military will be handed over to the Haitian authorities for identification and burial and so that the injured can be taken to the military hospital in Port-au-Prince [words indistinct]. The FADH General Headquarters asks the population, especially that of Cap-Haitien, to keep its calm in these tragic moments, hoping that order and peace will be restored for the well-being of everybody. The delegation, you will recall, left Cap-Haitien at 1130 after paying military honors to the dead, this press release issued by the FADH General Headquarters concludes.

Armed Forces Spokesman Views 24 Sep Incident

PA2709050194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2355 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Report by Herold Jean-Francois]

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 26 Sep (EFE)—Armed Forces Spokesman Colonel Pierre Antoine said today, Monday, that the Haitian Armed Forces are mourning their dead following Saturday's clash between U.S. and Haitian soldiers.

Antoine accused the U.S. soldiers of opening fire on Haitian soldiers at Cap Haitien without any reason whatsoever.

Even though the United States has admitted that the U.S. Marines were the first to open fire, it claims that this was prompted by a threat from a Haitian soldier who was carrying an "Uzi" submachine gun.

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Antoine said that the garrisons in northern Port-au-Prince [as received] are in the hands of U.S. soldiers, who now have the responsibility for maintaining order.

The Haitian soldiers abandoned the garrisons in the northern part of Cap Haitien following Saturday's incident.

Col. Antoine also charged that the "Borgne" garrison was sacked by civilians while the U.S. soldiers stood by and did nothing to stop them.

Radio Metropole announced that it had received reports that the true number of people killed in the incident is 11.

The Haitian Army said that eight soldiers and two civilians were killed in Saturday's incident, but Radio Metropole's correspondent maintains that there were 11 victims: 10 soldiers and the deputy police chief of Cap Haitien, a lieutenant by the name of Pascal.

Barry Willey, the U.S. Army spokesman in Haiti, today said he hoped that Saturday's incident would not affect the cooperation between the two armed forces. [passage omitted]

U.S., Haitian Sources Cited on Cap-Haitien Incidents

FL2609171994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] We will start the news this morning with Cap-Haitien, where tension prevailed yesterday morning following a shoot-out between American Marines and Haitian policemen. This shoot-out resulted in the death of 10 people on the Haitian side and a slightly injured person on the American side. The spokesman of the U.S. troops in Haiti, Colonel Barry Willey, asserted in Port-au-Prince that Cap-Haitien, the country's second largest city, was under the firm control of the GI's. Yesterday morning the Marines took control of the police headquarters building in Cap-Haitien and confiscated all the weapons and ammunition that were there.

However, calm was not restored in Cap-Haitien. According to a Haitian military source contacted by AFP in Port-au-Prince, a group of demonstrators was standing in front of the police headquarters, the Henry Christophe Barracks, and the army headquarters. They insult us and call us dogs. They want to disarm us, he stated. A resident also spoke of gunshots.

General Raoul Cedras, the head of the Haitian Army; Gen Hugh Shelton, the commander of the U.S. troops in Haiti; and the U.S. ambassador went on 25 September to Cap-Haitian to determine the circumstances of the shooting which took place on 24 September at about 2330 GMT. Their goal was to assess the situation and to assure the cooperation of the Haitian Army and police, stated Colonel Barry Willey. He also stated that nine Haitians died, but according to the latest assessment 10 people died.

Armed Forces Abandon Northern Region Posts

PA2609223194 Paris AFP in Spanish 2058 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 26 Sep (AFP)—The Haitian Armed Forces announced Monday that soldiers and policemen have deserted their posts in Nord Department, whose capital is Cap-Haitien, and that only U.S. troops can maintain order in that region.

Colonel Joseph Pierre Antoine, of the Armed Forces high command, has reported: "Following the withdrawal of volunteers, the military posts in the northern region are vacated." He added: "Only the U.S. forces in the area are available for maintaining order."

Women's Group Protests 'Cruelty of U.S. Marines'

FL2609224394 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] The Association of Women Against Occupation, AFCO, asserts that it has learned with indignation of the murder of 10 Haitians on Saturday night [23 September] by U.S. soldiers of the mission, Support to Peace. AFCO protests the cruelty of U.S. Marines who set themselves up as torturers and coldly kill our compatriots. The Association of Women Against Occupation notes that international opinion, so recently concerned over the death of a demonstrator, did not make a move in the face of this bestial act by the Marines. The association condemns this attitude by the international community, which it says works toward maintaining division and hate among Haitians. The association asks authorities to conduct a public investigation, to shed light on this unfortunate incident so that justice can be done to the families of the victims, already so deeply afflicted.

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Salinas Addresses UN General Assembly

PA2609174094 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1536 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Speech by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the 49th session of the UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Text] Mr. Chairman; UN Secretary General; Delegates; Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to attend the inauguration of the 49th UN General Assembly. Now that the threat of total war is fading away and local conflicts are multiplying, the unbending peace efforts undertaken by Butrus Butrus-Ghali are more difficult and deserve greater recognition. May I also congratulate Ivorian Foreign Minister Amara Essy, who was elected chairman of this important Assembly.

In the first 50 years of its existence, this organization has promoted momentous diplomatic negotiations, prevented controversies among nations, encouraged the resolution of regional conflicts, and prevented world conflicts. It has also faced serious internal limitations, at times close to paralysis, in meeting its goals. One and all have responded to this structure of world power, prevalent since 1945, and also to the efforts of its members, equally sovereign countries but with different beliefs, cultural expressions, geographic conditions, and levels of development.

The United Nations emerged in the post-World War II period. It was born for world peace, security, and development. At that time, peace meant preventing a nuclear war, something the bipolar arms race had been driving us toward since the 1950's. World security meant preventing the escalation of regional conflicts that could involve the nuclear powers. In those days, world development depended on financial assistance for recovery, and thus on the recycling of resources from the victorious powers as net exporters of capital, and many times as international aid.

Those concepts of peace, security, and development no longer exist. Today, without the bipolar balance, and in view of the intense financial competition and regional, ethnic, and religious conflicts of the past years, we recognize that there are other ways in which the United Nations should promote the peace, security, and development called for in its charter. Now, at the end of another war, the Cold War, it is time to give a new meaning to the objectives of our world organization, new conditions for creating profound, lasting solutions to mankind's desire for justice and well-being.

What kind of peace, development, and solidarity is needed at the end of this century? Today, the internationalization of the economy has revealed and emphasized the plurality of cultures among nations, creating tense relationships among groups, countries, and regions.

The major dilemmas of our time, therefore, are the results of profound complexities in economic and political matters and in providing a decent life for all people. Hence, there is the urgent need for finding and implementing new solutions for problems that arise with the end of the bipolar confrontation and new economic confrontations among powerful regions, the effects of which have repercussions, in some instances with greater intensity, on nations isolated from these financial and commercial hubs. The solutions today can no longer be found through armed means but through the will to build consensus. They can no longer be found through directives but through the capacity to coordinate policies in a just competition governed by provisions recognized by all sides. In building new hope, we must persevere in eradicating the nuclear menace, the risks of chemical and biological weapons, and the arms race. Mexico has invariably contributed to lower these risks. Mexico congratulates itself over the recent decision by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, and Cuba to comply with the Tlatelolco Treaty.

This compliance reflects the Latin American ideal of living in a region free from nuclear weapons. The goal today is to continue negotiations and enforce the Convention for the Total Ban on Nuclear Tests and the convention on chemical weapons signed in January 1993 and ratified so far by only 14 states. This is not enough. In the political sector, we are being challenged to preserve peace based on respect for the sovereignty of nations, their cultural diversity, and their political plurality. Far from succumbing to impositions or becoming diluted by uniformity, they are demanding their own place within their countries, as well as within this organization. Regarding the painful experience in my own country's southern region, Chiapas State, Mexico turned the 1 January armed confrontation into a political dialogue 10 days later. It listened carefully to the voices of the neediest. Mexico vowed to resolve the problem through dialogue and freedom, instead of seeking annihilation, as was customary in the world, during the Cold War era. This is the spirit of political dialogue and peace with dignity that the new times require. This is the path of new hope. True, the achievements attained recently in the world are not insignificant. Mexico welcomes the progress achieved in negotiations that bring us closer to a lasting peace in different parts of the world, especially, in the Middle East. Also, it cannot but state once again its satisfaction with the end of apartheid in South Africa and the establishment of a democratic government in that country.

Mexico will continue to support with great enthusiasm the peace processes in Central America and congratulates the sides making progress through dialogue and negotiations. As a member of the Secretary General's Group of Friends, Mexico has participated in the search for direct dialogues to end disputes among brothers from Latin American countries. That is precisely the course that—through a dialogue that was resumed in the wake of illegal migration—will finally put an end to the

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long-standing hemispheric dispute between the United States and Cuba within the framework of full respect for Cuban sovereignty and right to self-determination. With regard to the crisis in Haiti, Mexico reiterates its commitment to the restoration of constitutional and democratic order. It also reiterates the need to give preference to peaceful and diplomatic means and also to foster specific methods of cooperation that will ensure a better standard of living for the people of Haiti. Without it, democratic institutions will be fragile and short-lived.

The use of force and the threat of the use of force, when world peace is not in peril, no longer constitute points of reference to achieve the goals sovereign nations now seek. However, economic exchanges, political dialogue, and the shared obligation to recognize and respect each other without exception or conditions will achieve these goals. With this willingness that benefits all of us because it commits all of us, we can undertake serious reforms through international organizations and fundamentally the Organization of the United Nations.

Recognizing plurality, respect for sovereignty, and consensus-building also constitute the bases on which the United Nations may create new forms of cooperation and technical assistance aimed at consolidating democracy and the effective protection of human rights. Democracy as a political organization of people is no doubt the best way to facilitate development with justice. Respect for human rights guarantees it as well. The full existence of civil and political rights, recognized by the overwhelming majority of the members of our organization, demands economic conditions in which each individual can realize his potential. Hunger and starvation, drug trafficking, the erosion of natural resources, forced migrations, and new protectionism in trade are undermining development and human rights and hampering the participation of individuals in shaping their own destiny.

Therefore, coordinated action of nations in the face of the serious problems of our times can increase political participation and guarantee better conditions for the protection of human rights. The efforts made thus far by the United Nations, such as the creation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, are considerable but insufficient. Defending human rights and strengthening democracy also entail a review of the issue of development based on equitable access to markets, capital, and new technology.

It is no coincidence that democratic stability develops where there is economic development and growth. Nor is it any coincidence that there are more human rights violations in areas where the population is stricken with poverty, illiteracy, and disease. To make progress in democracy and respect for human rights, one must make new efforts to eliminate inequality among individuals, groups, peoples, and nations.

As for the economic aspect, we are facing the challenges and opportunities of worldwide interdependence. Today we need to progress toward harmonizing financial, technological, and productive policies of the world economy to attain generalized growth. We know very well that the development of the most industrialized nations will not be enough without the sustained growth of the developing nations. Within the next few years, the fastest growing markets for products from industrialized countries will be in developing countries. We also know that assistance might be ineffective and insufficient when the basic issue is moving the world toward equal opportunities by opening markets to products from developing countries.

In recent years, the world has experienced a transition toward commercial openness that is unprecedented in modern history. This actual worldwide transfer—in which a large number of developing countries are participating for the first time—is indicative of the renewed confidence of the various nations in their capacity to compete with and join world markets. This new opening also gives us reason to be optimistic that freer trade will help eradicate poverty. More trade will represent more and better employment.

Nevertheless, there are still obstacles we must overcome. We must be attentive to the new protectionist measures. We must admit that the new financial resources are still insufficient to meet the needs of developing countries, that many of these countries continue to suffer losses in terms of their exchange as well as their instability in interest rates. We have a challenge to eliminate the conditions that impede the free trade of goods and services, restrict the creation of employment, generate migration, aggravate xenophobic attitudes, and hinder world recovery.

To do this we must consolidate the current opening of markets to competition. No instrument will better serve this purpose than launching the World Trade Organization [WTO], which will complement the institutions born in Bretton Woods. First we must guarantee the ratification of the Uruguay Round by the countries that have not yet done so, and we must subsequently ensure the effective operation of the new world system of trade.

Today, it is imperative that we maintain and broaden large free trade zones and that we build, within the framework of the new WTO, new methods of coordination to enable free trade zones to promote world trade, not impede it. As we advance in commercial agreements and treaties, it is imperative that we recognize the differences between nations and avoid placing conditions on commerce—for example, conditions linked to labor and environmental issues which have a legitimate commercial dimension, but which also can be used to cloak new forms of protectionism. All of these things are great challenges in our economic agenda as we face the turn of the century.

In the arena of social justice, which is an indispensable condition for peace, there is a worldwide social debt we must pay back. If we fail to do this, it would be falsely

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idealistic to think of democratic advancement or general and permanent security and peace. With this end in mind, the United Nations must clearly stress development and cooperation when undertaking any multilateral actions, and it must no longer resort to armed intervention to maintain security.

Before us, we have the opportunity to reorder our priorities when, during this 49th National Assembly, we broach the issue of the new agenda for development and, in this way, advance toward the achievement of sustained peace by implementing a comprehensive and balanced development plan on a global level.

The full implementation of this development also supposes the sustainable use of natural resources and the balanced maintenance of fragile ecosystems that have often been over-exploited with the subsequent impoverishment of the people. On this issue, the agenda established by the organization at the historic Rio de Janeiro summit continues to be more of an aspiration than a reality. It is imperative that we move from words to deeds. At next year's summit, which will address social development, we will have a new opportunity to respond to the issues of environment and development, and we must respond to these issues essentially as an act of justice.

In the end, we require a great cultural change based on one simple truth: Political plurality in countries and between nations is not a hypotheses; it is a reality that collectively defines and characterizes humanity. This is why Mexico insists on opposing the delusion of attempting to destroy sovereignty. The globalization of the economy, an undeniable reality of our times, must be reconciled with the existence of a plurality of sovereign nations whose individual personalities and will to exist cannot be constrained, much less denied, without seriously risking peace. Only by basing our decisions on the recognition and respect for plurality will we be able to implement new and better world coordination mechanisms in the realm of economics and to attain a better distribution of capital, technology, and joint production arrangements. Only by basing our decisions on respect for the sovereignty of each nation and each nation's right to self-determination will we be able to achieve more comprehensive and lasting political agreements.

Only based on this awareness and with renewed solidarity can we implement timely actions of effective justice in the social sphere. With this view of the future, we can responsibly confront existing inequities and create a just and civilized coexistence. In sum, this involves assuming and recognizing a pluralistic reality of liberty and justice, which is imperative to security in terms of the coexistence among nations. In Mexico, this vision is called social liberalism. This concept has guided the transformations we have undertaken to respond to the challenges of today. As a product of our history and the universal aspiration for justice—an aspiration we share—social liberalism prompted us to implement profound democratic reforms, to change the economic structures, to wage an all-out struggle against poverty, and to establish a new link between Mexico and the world.

We are forging a reformed state that does not depend on its size but, rather, on its efficiency to achieve freedom with more equitable conditions. I have spoken before this assembly about the objectives Mexico's transformations in 1990. Today we have results which reaffirm our hope and give us a better understanding of global challenges. Stemming from this social liberalism is the difficult but gratifying building of a new political consensus that enables us to progress amid democracy.

We made colossal efforts to correct our macroeconomic imbalances, to increase the country's competitiveness, and to consolidate our Solidarity Program to benefit those who have the least. Also, we made efforts to make environmental protection a component of development. In turn, we also are helping engender new forms of international harmony and cooperation through our economic diversification abroad; our entrance into organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum; the creation of NAFTA, along with the creation of respective trade agreements in Latin America; and our joining the OECD.

Recently, Mexico underwent an enriching democratic experience in its federal elections. More than 36 million inhabitants who represent more than 77 percent of registered voters participated. These elections were the most transparent ever and were monitored by parties, national observers, and foreign visitors. The Mexicans came out in support of legality and peace. I wish to extend my recognition to the technical support offered by the UN Secretariat, responding to the request by the Mexican Government, to prepare and train groups of Mexican electoral observers.

Ladies and gentlemen, today it is no longer possible to pursue peace, security, and development as isolated goals, whether nationally or internationally. The new world order demands new thoughts and new priorities; a restructuring of international realities, according to rules of consensus and based on respect for the sovereignty of each nation; and recognition of the pluralism of the various peoples of the world. This new vision permits us to turn differences into opportunities, to turn opposition into dialogue and agreement, and to turn demands for justice into commitments of solidarity.

The times in which we live demand that we make development a priority for world peace and security; that we sponsor global policies in financing and free trade, and these policies must be based on fixed and equitable rules; and that we recognize in nature an ally of the development of each of nation and the reciprocal responsibility of each nation to maintain global stability. These times demand that we implement information networks to effectively combat narcotrafficking and terrorism, which threaten the security of all us. Basically, these

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times demand that we join, within a context of democracy and liberty, all of our efforts to reduce poverty in the world.

Without this, there will be no peace or lasting security. These new imperatives reflect not only gargantuan needs, but they also reflect the aspiration of equality among nations in building a future that will only be promising if it belongs to all. This is the sense of international community that is contained in the San Francisco Charter—a future no one has the right to deny the generations of tomorrow.

Today, as then, peace can only be preserved by observing the law. Today, more than ever, security demands greater development of each nation, of each country, to make our hope of a common future a reality. The UN Organization, our organization, continues to be the forum par excellence to achieve these noble purposes. Thank you very much. [applause]

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA2609200494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Mexican economic developments monitored through 26 September.

Currently, the Mexican merchant marine fleet consists of 58 vessels, compared with 84 in 1982, while Mexican-flagged vessels conduct only 2.4 percent of the country's foreign trade. In the opinion of Carlos Viveros, president of the National Chamber of the Maritime Transportation Industry [Camara Nacional de Industria del Transporte Maritimo], the continuation of this downward trend would adversely affect the economy because of the increasing flight of foreign capital and the uncertainty importers and exporters face in transporting products. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 19 Sep 94 p 27)

The federal government issued treasury bonds worth 26.2281 billion new pesos in the first half of the year, reflecting a real increase of 3,567 percent over the same period last year. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO (ANALISIS FINANCIERO Supplement) in Spanish 19 Sep 94 p 3A)

A 20 September report datelined Monterrey, Nuevo Leon State, cites Roberto Villareal Gonda, coordinator of the economic advisers of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat (SECOFI), saying overseas sales of manufactured goods total 75 percent of Mexican exports. The official added that just two years ago oil represented between 75 and 80 percent of all overseas sales. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2042 GMT 20 Sep 94)

Figures from the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico indicate that between January and August of this year the federal government's internal debt rose nearly 5.5 billion new pesos. They added that internal public debt now totals 125,638,833 new pesos. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 Sep 94 p 19)

Mexican Employers Confederation (COPARMEX) President Antonio Sanchez Diaz de Rivera told UNOMASUNO that the government has to eliminate the disparity in growth among various economic sectors and implement a policy of across-the-board growth. If this is not done, the COPARMEX president warned a greater number of companies would shut down. Meanwhile, Victor Manuel Terrones Lopez, president of the National Association of the Processing Industry, said he was confident the pace of the economy would pick up in 1995, because President-elect Ernesto Zedillo will implement a policy in which industrialists will participate for the first time in designing a new and modern system of production. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 Sep 94 pp 1, 18)

According to Hector Tello, president of the Mexican Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry for the European Union [Asociacion Mexicana de Camaras de Comercio e Industrias de Paises de la Union Europea], the lack of a sound export culture and disinformation regarding business opportunities are the main obstacles hampering the expansion of sales of Mexican products in Europe. He also warned about the risk involved for those Mexican companies concentrating on the U.S. market, because this makes them dependent on a single client when selling products abroad. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 20 Sep 94 p 24)

Gilberto Vasquez Ahedo, director of the Free Trade Agreement Division of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers, has said the lack of liquidity, the heavy financial debt, and the severe fiscal burden are preventing the country's industries from taking the fullest advantage of NAFTA. In his opinion, it will require at least one year to assess the real effects NAFTA has had on different segments of the economy. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 20 Sep 94 p 20)

Only nine months after NAFTA entered into force, more than 3,000 Canadian companies are exporting, or are interested in exporting, their products to Mexico, according to a report by the Business Opportunities Sourcing System of the Canadian Ministry of Industry and Science. More than 240 of these companies are major conglomerates with annual sales exceeding $50 million. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 20 Sep 94 p 20)

Finance and Public Credit Secretary Pedro Aspe spoke on 20 September at an international symposium sponsored by the National Institute of Finance Executives, INEF. He said reforms in the Mexican financial system have already shown tangible results within the framework of the established objectives. Aspe added that these encouraging results reflect greater flexibility and competitiveness in the Mexican financial system. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 21 Sep 94)

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In its biannual report, the Confederation of Associations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Concanaco, has reported that commercial sales have experienced a slight improvement this year, and prospects are very good for the end of the first semester because favorable economic conditions are expected to have an impact in this sector. (Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish 21 Sep 94 p 23A)

The National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Data Processing, INEGI, has issued a report that says the industrial sector has reaffirmed its expansion during the first half of the year, increasing production 2.5 percent, compared with the same period in 1993. The report added that the construction industry increased 6 percent; electricity, gas, and water, 5 percent; mining 2.7 percent; and manufacturing 1.4 percent. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 21 Sep 94 p 3A)

Not until the year 2000 or the end of the next administration will industry be able to generate the 1 million jobs a year the country needs, according to Fernando Cortina Legarreta, president of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers, Concamin. He admitted that the industrial sector has not been able to generate new jobs due to difficulties caused by great transformations in the country in the technological and ecological fields. Nevertheless, he said that this sector has maintained 5.5 million jobs in 380,000 factories, and there has been no mass unemployment. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 26)

During a forum organized by INEF, Secretary of Commerce Jaime Serra Puche said that foreign investments in Mexico already totaled $8.9 billion during the first eight months of the year, a 29 percent increase over the same period last year. He recalled that in 1993 Mexico achieved a historic record of receiving $15.6 million in foreign investments. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Sep 94)

In its monthly statistical report, Mexican Petroleum, Pemex, reported that Mexico sent 75 percent of its total export quota to the U.S. market in August. The same report states that Spain acquired 10.8 percent, the Middle East 4.1 percent, Europe 5.8 percent, and Latin American countries—basically through the San Jose Pact—4.3 percent. Pemex also noted that "in August, Pemex production reached a record amount of 1,393,300 barrels per day, a 7.1 percent increase over the average 1993 production." (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 23 Sep 94 p 50)

Due to a miscalculation, the federal government does not have enough funds to cover the checks issued by the Program of Direct Support to the Countryside, Procampo, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources announced. It added that the only solution for producers is "to wait until next year, when they will be paid." (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 23 Sep 94 p 26)

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 0230 GMT on 24 September carries a 200-word report saying that "Deputy Pedro Ojeda Paullada, president of the Chamber of Deputies' Energy Commission, said on 23 September that Mexico's oil reserves guarantee oil supplies for the next 50 years." Ojeda added that "based on figures released by Pemex, confirmed oil reserves by 31 December 1993 totaled 64.516 million barrels." He also noted that "oil is the country's main source of income, representing 25 percent of the federal government's total income." He stressed that "during the past six years oil revenues have totaled $106 billion." (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0230 GMT 24 September 94)

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El Salvador

Demobilized Security Members Occupy Assembly

PA2609183794 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1642 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] We reported earlier that demobilized members of the Armed Forces violently occupied the Legislative Assembly building this morning. We now have an updated report by Douglas Mejia. Welcome to YSU, Douglas.

[Begin Mejia recording] Good morning, listeners of Radio Cadena YSU. As we reported a few minutes ago, demobilized members of the defunct security corps occupied the Legislative Assembly building this morning, demanding that agreements reached last July with the Assembly presidency be implemented. The demobilized members occupied the congress building by force. They broke windows in the main entrance and another window inside the parliament.

Mauricio Cornejo, one of the demobilized, said that the indemnity payment has been made, but in a selective manner. They demand that all of the demobilized members receive the indemnity payment. They also have a new list of demands for the assembly president. [end recording]

Police Seize Gunpowder, Gasoline

PA2609205894 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Telephone report by correspondent Milton Grimaldi from the Legislative Assembly building in San Salvador; from the "KL Radio News" newscast]

[Text] We are continuing our report on what is happening here at the Legislative Assembly, where the situation remains unchanged. Assembly employees are inside their offices on each of the eight floors of the building.

Deputy Rene Figueroa has just announced that gunpowder and gasoline have been seized. The seizure was carried out by National Police members, who confiscated them from some demobilized members of the Armed Forces who are outside the building. The gasoline and gunpowder seized from the demobilized soldiers was turned over to ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador], according to a report by Deputy Figueroa.

Figueroa said the assembly can only meet one of the nine demands made by the demobilized members of the Armed Forces—namely, the one that refers to the reform of Decree 100, Article 6, which would require demobilized soldiers to work in government institutions for two years following their demobilization. Deputy Figueroa said that because this pertains to the assembly per se, the deputies can work on this demand. Other demands, however, such as land transfers, relocations, the granting of credit, and compensation payments, correspond to other institutions, such as the Defense and Finance Ministries.

For the moment, the legislative commission deputies are still meeting on the eighth floor of the Legislative Assembly building. ONUSAL members are on the fifth floor, speaking to the demobilized soldiers. They are trying to calm the other demobilized soldiers who are inside and outside the Legislative Assembly building in an effort to open direct negotiations between the legislators and the demobilized members of the Armed Forces.

The members of the Adefaes [Association of Demobilized Armed Forces Members] who are currently here between the sixth floor and the basement of the Assembly building have said they will remain in the building until the Legislative Assembly gives a definitive answer to their demands.

Agreement Reached, Soldiers Leave

PA2709050794 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0121 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The approximately 100 demobilized soldiers who today occupied the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador to demand indemnities have allowed the departure of the deputies and administrative personnel, 230 persons, and they themselves have begun leaving the building.

The demobilized soldiers, who stayed in the assembly for more than six hours, agreed to release the deputies and the employees after having reached agreement with a legislative commission that three ministers will meet with them, perhaps today, at the headquarters of the UN observers for El Salvador to discuss their demands.

Once the agreement was reached, the parliament building started being cleared without incident. It was Deputy Roberto Viera, of the Christian Democratic Party, who informed ACAN-EFE about the agreement.

Calderon Sol Addresses UN General Assembly

PA2709041594 San Salvador Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0203 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Address by President Armando Calderon Sol at the opening of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly in New York; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Mr. President, Mr. UN Secretary General, Messrs. delegates, ladies, and gentlemen. In the name of the people and Government of El Salvador, I would like to express to your excellency our sincerest endorsement of your election to preside over this session, which will most surely end with positive results for the efforts by the international community to find solutions to the tremendous challenges of our times. We are sure that your diplomatic skills and experience will allow us to fulfill the noble principles and objectives embodied in the charter of our organization. We would like to express

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our acknowledgement to Mr. Samuel Insanally, his most excellent ambassador of Guyana, for the dynamic and successful work done during his term as president of the 48th session. With special satisfaction, we would like to reiterate our acknowledgement to UN Secretary General Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali for his work as the head of the organization, especially for his efforts to cooperate with and assist the Salvadoran people and Government in the peace process.

Mr. President, please allow me to make a brief personal testimonial. It is not the first time that I have had the honor to be present at this organization. I was priviliged to participate in the difficult and fruitful negotiations that culminated with the New York Agreement at midnight on 31 December 1991. This agreement paved the way for the signing of the peace agreements in Mexico on 16 January 1992. Subsequently, in May of this year, as president elect, I had the opportunity to reiterate to the secretary general our complete political disposition and firm commitment to honor all the peace agreements that were still pending.

Today, for the first time I appear before this General Assembly as president of the Republic of El Salvador in compliance with the Salvadoran people's mandate, which fills me with satisfaction and pride. Mr. President, with the big transformations that have taken place in the international political arena, especially in eastern Europe during the past few years, and the end of the East-West confrontation, a new international order has begun to take shape. Nevertheless, there have been new trends worldwide in the political, economic, and social arena. These trends have allowed tremendous progress, which, despite the serious problems that still persist, allow us to view humanity's future with optimism.

With the end of the Cold War, security is no longer primarily dependent on armaments, thus a limit is placed on military spending. Democracy as a political system has strengthened, continues expanding, and is becoming consolidated worldwide. The overall concept of development is now also intimately linked to democracy, peace, respect for human rights, protection of the environment, development, and human security.

In economic matters, changes have been aimed at liberalization and globalization of the economy, which has generated a trend toward privatization that will reduce state participation in the activities of society and will encourage the efficient use of resources for the benefit of the community.

In the social area, policies are aimed to form human capital, encourage personal progress, and fight the poverty in which a great part of the world population lives in. This is clearly outlined in the 1994 report on human development.

We feel it is the right time to briefly praise UN efforts in the search for a solution and the establishment of mechanisms to counter problems of a general interest, thus creating greater opportunities for overall development, which promote greater well-being for humans. It is in this vein that we welcome events of deep significance and broad goals, such as the World Summit on the Rights of Children, the International Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the recently held International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the decision to hold in 1995 the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit on Social Development. We support and follow with interest these international meetings, because the topics that have been broached and will continue to be broached are centered on the deep analysis and concepts related to human development, their interrelation, the obstacles to reach the desired goals, and the governments' agreements to comply with them in accordance with their respective legislations, programs, and national resources.

We cannot fail to mention UN successes in the search for international peace and security. The dynamic participation in solving conflicts—both those linked to the end of colonization as well as those of an international nature—is an undisputed example that, when states have the political resolve, it is possible to reach rational solutions for the problems we are facing.

In this connection, we want to state that, for the sake of democratic pluralism and the principles of universality that inspired the UN Charter, we reiterate our agreement with the admittance of those states that accept and comply with the rules of this organization.

As an example of successful UN work we mention South Africa, which is in a process of consolidating its democracy under a multi-racial government; the solution to the conflict of our country, El Salvador, which for a long time lived through the tragedy of an armed conflict; the peace process in our sister country Guatemala; and the establishment of a UN mission to supervise the process that will restore the harmony of the Guatemalan people.

Other examples of successful UN work are: the fact that Mozambique is about to hold free elections to democratically elect its authorities under UN supervision; the fact that Cambodia is currently undergoing a difficult transition period to consolidate its democracy and its reconstruction; and in general, all those cases in which the UN presence through peacekeeping forces takes on the task of guarding, observing, and separating to prevent military clashes.

It is a concern to us that, despite the efforts and invested resources to promote development on the international level, the situation of the majority of the nations has not improved in the social and economic fields. This fact is quite evident in developing nations where extreme poverty, deprivations, deficiencies in health and education services, unemployment, and inequality in incomes, among others, are the prevailing characteristics.

We believe the goal of universal peace to achieve a more human world will only be possible if we are convinced

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and have the political willingness to establish a new model of development in which the ultimate goal should be the improvement of mankind's living conditions, a new concept of cooperation based on the democratization of international relations, without any kind of conditions but with shared responsibilities in reducing poverty, generating opportunities, creating jobs, social integration, and opening markets.

Mr. President, we are truly pleased with the continuation of the fulfillment of the peace commitments signed between the governments of Israel and the PLO. We are also pleased with the signing of the Washington Declaration between Israel and Jordan, which constitutes a transcendental progress in the Middle East peace process. We hope these facts will create an incentive for other states directly involved in and with interests in that region to fully join the initiated peace process to restore a fair, true, and permanent peace to the benefit of the people who are part of it.

We want to express our concern over the conflict that is ripping apart the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we truly hope a negotiated solution will be found that takes into account the respect for human rights and the peaceful coexistence among the various ethnic groups in that important region.

The serious situation in Rwanda is also a matter of concern for us, and we are hoping for a speedy solution to that people's struggle. We hope this nation will find solutions to the problems it is experiencing, and we call on the international community to give top priority to this conflict.

Latin American and Caribbean countries cannot disregard the current situation in Haiti and Cuba. Our government is pleased with the last-minute political solution reached by the U.S. Government and the Haitian de facto government. This solution prevented a major armed intervention that would have caused serious harm to the Haitian nation.

It has been proved once again that negotiation remains a suitable option to overcome differences among men, to guarantee a peaceful coexistence among nations, and to preserve international peace and security.

Concerning the Cuban situation, El Salvador believes the Cuban Government is responsible for creating the favorable conditions for the Cuban people to freely exercise their individual, political, and economic rights. As a contribution to prevent the socioeconomic crisis from worsening, to decrease the number of immigration sanctions, and to make Cuba's rejoining the community of American nations feasible, we believe honest and open talks must be held between the Cuban Government and the regional countries that are interested in helping resolve the political differences.

We truly welcome the Cuban Government's decision to invite the UN high commissioner for human rights to visit the island, as well as its decision to sign the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty in Latin America.

Mr. President, we are talking about two important conferences to be held in the Central American regional sphere. As developing countries, we understand social problems, especially because we have endured armed conflicts that are partly the result of the lack of social opportunities and programs capable of promoting them. We know that the extent and scope of sustainable development imply large responsibilities and require greater solidarity, cooperation, and consensus among the Central American subregion; this statement is why we will hold the Central American Ecological Summit in Nicaragua in October to examine environmental problems and their impact on our countries' development.

The International Peace and Development Conference will be held in Honduras in late October and will evaluate the achievements made and obstacles encountered in promoting our peoples' socioeconomic development. In addition, we believe our need for material and financial resources is essential in improving our peoples' socioeconomic conditions. To this end, we are working hard to improve and strengthen the democratic institutions that guarantee civil, political, and socioeconomic rights, while fomenting the creative participation of civilian society in the development process. We are committed to promoting human development to meet the people's basic needs and overcoming abject poverty based on a strategy consisting of sustainable development, which will promote social investments.

Regarding the Central American region, our main interest is to improve our people's standard of living to complement our objective of consolidating the achievements we made in the fields of democracy and peace. We believe the international community, which firmly supports the Central American peace process, will attend that conference to express its support and give us its decisive cooperation in making Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy, and development.

Mr. President, allow us to analyze the peculiar situation of our country, El Salvador, and describe the achievements made and the obstacles and new challenges we will run across along the difficult path of consolidating peace and democracy.

It is important to note that our government's work is for the most part aimed at compliance with the final phase of the agreements so as to definitively consolidate peace, national reconciliation, the democratic model, and our country's reconstruction.

Our effort is also aimed at resolving the challenges Salvadoran society is facing during the postwar period, particularly in the fields of public security, the antidrug-trafficking struggle and organized crime, the eradication of corruption, the improving and strengthening of the judicial system to produce prompt and fair justice, and the full respect for human rights.

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We will also adopt measures to reduce extreme poverty, to improve the education and health systems, to improve the human protection system, environmental protection, and the creation of opportunities, all for the sake of improved well-being for the Salvadoran people, of our grand objective: social peace.

Regarding compliance with the peace agreements, we have made significant progress this year. We have given decided support in the public security field to the National Civilian Police [PNC], and we will continue doing so to strengthen it. We will do it by providing the resources it requires to improve its efficiency and efficacy.

The PNC has been deployed in all the departments of the country. We have to increase the number of agents to adequately face the public security problems stemming from the postwar period.

Regarding human rights, we can satisfactorily report a notable improvement in the respect shown for the fundamental rights and liberties of the Salvadoran people. We must report that although certain situations could have been the result of political designs the majority of the situations concerned common crime and are a product of a social condition the postwar has made more acute.

Regarding cases resulting from alleged political designs, we hereby reiterate our government's political will to decidedly back the strengthening of national institutions that protect human rights, particularly the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights, which will be able to fully assume the role it should play once the mission of the UN Observers for El Salvador concludes its mandate in our country.

During a recent visit by an independent expert of the UN Human Rights Commission, our government presented to him a proposal listing what national institutions need to improve their functions to promote and protect human rights. We hope this proposal is backed by the national members of this institution.

Regarding the administration of justice, we must note the election by consensus of the members of the new Salvadoran Supreme Court of Justice by the various political forces that compose the Legislative Assembly. This court is composed of justices who do not belong to nor obey orders from any political organization; this guarantees they will be independent and impartial.

Regarding compliance with commitments involving land transfers, programs for the reinsertion of former fighters, and human settlement programs, they have not been paralyzed, although there have been certain delays due to that lack of documents and information on potential beneficiaries and due to financial resource limitations.

We want to take advantage of this opportunity to recall that aid offers made by the international community to support the peace agreements created much expectation in our country. Part of this aid has been delivered, and we are deeply grateful for it, but another part has not arrived. This is placing the government in a difficult position and could unnecessarily produce social tension.

Aware of this situation, the secretary general, in his latest report on the Salvadoran situation to the Security Council, stated: It is imperative that the government and the international community urgently resolve the more than $80-million deficit to comply with certain programs derived from the peace accords and with pending commitments.

In view of the delays, the government of the Republic and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] agreed on 19 May to set a timetable for the most important pending agreements; this agreement indicates there is a political resolve to continue to fully comply with the peace agreements.

In the social area, our objective as a government is to create conditions that will provide equal opportunities to human beings from their conception, so they can achieve a better standard of living and quality of life. The strategy of our social programs is to jointly work on programs that have short-range and long-range effects, interlinked with an economic policy that will stimulate investment and create jobs; this stems from our belief there can be no economic development without social development and vice versa. This is complemented with parallel progress in the fields of politics, justice, and public security.

Thus, to improve the living conditions of the most needy people, we are executing social support programs for their betterment as the means to help them obtain productive jobs in the short term; this includes training programs, incentives for productivity, attention to mothers, children, and senior citizens, basic infrastructure, environmental health, recreation, and sports. We know that (?problems) are attacked at their root and that the causes of poverty are long term.

The government has decided to undertake extensive and in-depth reforms in the health and education fields, because they are basic areas to invest for sustainable human growth and social mobility. We believe these reforms, backed by greater budget allocations for health and education, will enable us to drastically reduce infant mortality rates, to provide quality education to the most remote areas of our territory, and to reduce illiteracy to the minimum before the year 2000.

We are fully convinced one cannot speak of health as a whole without considering the environment, because most of the diseases that harm the poorest communities are caused by the pollution of the soil, water resources, and air. Our government is committed to the protection and recovery of the environment, because there is no sustainable growth if we do not protect our natural resources and halt the destruction of the environment.

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One of the social reforms undertaken by the government involves the social security system. It seeks to create the conditions for the participation of the private sector so as to rapidly expand coverage with individual mechanisms of capitalization. We are determined to improve social security to prevent the anguish of certain workers who find themselves doomed in their old age to be a burden to their families after an entire lifetime of work.

El Salvador has undertaken great changes since 1989 to deregulate and stabilize the economy; those changes have had noticeable results. There has been a more than 5-percent economic growth rate during each of the last three years. Annual inflation will be approximately 10 percent this year, and it is estimated it will be one digit next year. In the external sector, international reserves are equivalent to more than four months of imports, and the fiscal deficit, despite the demands imposed by the peace agreements, will be approximately 2 percent of the gross domestic product in 1994. These encouraging results make us view the future with optimism.

Our objective, as government, is to have economic development with equity, to maintain stability, and to responsibly generate trust in the productive sector through a healthy economic policy that seeks to encourage economic savings. Reforms to the social security system should play a significant role in mobilizing resources.

We firmly believe our country is rapidly turning into an attractive place for foreign investors. One important factor in this strategy has been the approval of a new labor code that was approved by consensus by the workers and the business sectors and was endorsed by the ILO [International Labor Organization]. This labor code represents significant progress.

As we can see, El Salvador is amid peace and democracy. It is changing rapidly. While much progress has been made, we cannot deny there is a long road before us. Progress makes us work harder for expanded opportunities and social wellbeing.

Mr. President, now is a suitable moment to reiterate to the UN secretary general the acknowledgement of the Salvadoran Government and people of the careful assistance he provided for the consolidation of the peace effort in El Salvador.

We also want to express our gratitude to the international community, which has accompanied us and continues at our side to strengthen our democracy and the reconciliation process of the Salvadoran people.

We can say with much satisfaction that our country's peace agreements are being satisfactorily complied with in line with the aspirations of the Salvadoran people and can serve as an example for the solution of other conflicts in the world.

We want to state that the situation of peace in El salvador is the product of an immovable decision by the people, of backing by the international community, and of the work efficiently carried out by our organization and its secretary general.

In conclusion, I want to express our hope that when this 49th period of sessions of the UN General Assembly closes, the people of the world will have found ways of understanding and cooperation so that humankind, hoisting the banner of solidarity, may successfully face the challenges of the approaching millennium. Thank you.

Guatemala

Peace Coordinator Views Peace Talks With URNG

PA2409171094 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Sep 94

[From the "Channel 7 News" newscast]

[Text] The government and the guerrillas are preparing to resume peace negotiations. Hector Rosada, coordinator of the Government Peace Commission, said the agreement to be signed with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] is not a peace agreement but a pact to end the armed conflict, which will lead to a pacification process.

[Begin Rosada recording] We are not going to sign a peace agreement. We will sign an agreement to end the armed conflict as the first important and critical condition for beginning a pacification process. Peace is built by society; it does not come about as a result of two political expressions of society documenting their willingness not to attack each other. That is not the case. Peace will be built the day society reaffirms its commitment to advance toward conditions of well-being and peaceful, democratic coexistence. [end recording]

The peace coordinator added that several issues will be covered during the meeting with the URNG, which is scheduled to take place in Mexico in the next few days.

[Begin Rosada recording] We must discuss issues related to the agenda as well as resuming the agenda. We have to agree on when the next meeting will take place. In my opinion, however, that is secondary. [end recording]

Commenting on the guerrilla attack in San Marcos, which resulted in the death of six soldiers and one civilian, Rosada said the following:

[Begin Rosada recording] I would say it is somewhat contradictory for the guerrillas to carry out actions that lead to the senseless death of productive Guatemalan citizens just before negotiations are scheduled to resume. [end recording]

Officials Discuss Verification Commission With UN

PA2409175094 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 4

[Unattributed report]

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[Text] The UN technical commission tasked with laying the groundwork for the final installation of the Verification Commission yesterday held working sessions with the ministers of the Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Human Rights Affairs (COPREDEH) and President Ramiro De Leon Carpio.

The first meeting was at the Foreign Ministry, where the commission headed by Leonardo Franco spoke with the ministers of defense, government, and foreign relations, the Peace Commission coordinator, and the attorney general.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Franco said the talks could be described as successful because they are working for full respect for human rights.

We have seen on the part of the government the most complete cooperation and support for the technical group's work, which can be interpreted as a good sign, Franco noted.

The delegation members commented on Monday's meeting with the archbishop, reiterating that the group does not have the authority to receive complaints of human rights violations.

Foreign Minister Gladys Marithza Ruiz de Vielman said the government reiterated its satisfaction at the arrival of the technical group and the fact that the UN General Assembly approved the Verification Commission.

The group then went to the presidential residence to meet with President De Leon Carpio and later met with Human Rights Ombudsman Jorge Mario Garcia Laguardo. De Leon Carpio and the MINUGUA [UN Mission for Guatemala] discussed the topics of forced recruitment, PAC's [Civilian Self-Defense Patrols], missing persons, kidnapings, and extrajudicial executions as unacceptable facts of his administration promoted by the opposing sides, as well as other indirect situations caused by the armed conflict.

But most importantly, the president added, the envoys corroborated the government's good will in respecting human rights, since violations such as those that took place in San Marcos, where several people were killed by the terror of war, must be investigated.

He reiterated his firm decision to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations, no matter who they are or what institution they are affiliated with.

Minister Disputes UN Assessment of Rights Abuses

PA2409152294 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 4

[Unattributed report; passages in italics as published]

[Text] Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez said yesterday that he does not share but respects the opinion of Leonardo Franco, director of the UN Mission for Guatemala [Mission de la ONU para Guatemala—Minugua], that *the human rights situation in the country is alarming.*

Enriquez said he is pleased with the experts' arrival, because it will expedite the arrival of a formal verification commission and the peace process and, above all, will expose those who have actually violated human rights in the country.

There is no doubt that they expressed their first impression. I respect it but do not share it, Enriquez said. He added that their permanent presence will be beneficial, because time will help them come up with a clear, truthful, and credible idea of what is happening.

Although in the end their opinion could be different or more drastic, the important thing is that they will do an impartial, serious analysis removed from emotional, ideological, or political considerations, he added.

He recalled that Minugua will not conduct investigations but will do follow-up work; for example, it will help determine if a forceful disappearance was indeed that *or whether a husband tired of living with his wife and left for the United States without saying a word.*

As for a proposal that popular groups such as GAM [Mutual Support Group] and CONAVIGUA [National Commission of Guatemalan Widows] join the work of the mission, Enriquez pointed out that it would not be prudent, because these groups are permanently reporting abuses, thus they would be acting as judge and jury, although in the end, the decision would be in the hands of the United Nations, Copaz [Peace Commission], or the PDH [(Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights].

Honduras

Minister Paz Views UNSC Membership, PRC Ties

PA2509033594 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 23 Sep 94 p 87

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar said yesterday that Honduras is practically a new UN Security Council member as it has the support of a large number of member countries.

The government official yesterday traveled, along with President Carlos Roberto Reina, to New York City to attend the UN General Assembly.

When Paz was questioned on the possibility of Honduras becoming a UN Security Council member, he said: "That is certain; Honduras is already at the final stage, and we are convinced we will represent Latin America and the Caribbean in this world organization."

He recalled that Honduras is the Latin American and Caribbean candidate and is supported by the Security Council permanent members and by other European,

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Asian, and African nations. "We will make public this news during the first week of October," he pointed out very optimistically.

Communist China

As for establishing relations with Communist China, the official explained he has never spoken about establishing diplomatic relations, as the media reported, adding the government is not trying to open an embassy in continental China. However, he stated commercial relations will be established.

He also reported there are no plans to open an embassy in the Nordic countries, Stockholm [as published], and Sweden.

Half a Million Earmarked for Demarcation

Meanwhile, Minister Paz underscored that the meetings to be held between Honduras and El Salvador to expedite the border demarcation process were scheduled for yesterday and today.

During the meetings, they will reach agreement on the final procedures at the border area to begin the physical and field work, added the minister.

He said that several months ago the government allocated the necessary funds—some 500,000 lempiras, a cost estimated according to conventional methods—to be invested in the demarcation process.

Should the demarcation procedures be sophisticated, the demarcation will end in 18 months; however, should the procedures be the usual ones, we will have to wait three years, pointed out Paz.

Discusses Plans To Establish PRC Ties

PA2409152194 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar said yesterday that the Taiwanese Government has no reason to be annoyed by the fact that Honduras plans to establish relations with the PRC.

In a letter published yesterday by the media, Taiwanese Ambassador Huang Chuan-li expressed his concern about a Honduran delegation's recent visit to mainland China.

"I read that he was concerned, not annoyed. He has no reason to be annoyed. He is the ambassador to the people and Government of Honduras," Paz Aguilar said.

Paz Aguilar stressed that the Honduran Government has decided to open economic and trade relations with the PRC and to maintain diplomatic and consular relations with Taiwan.

Paz Aguilar believes that since the end of the Cold War—which was the cause of the division of China—there is no reason to continue to limit relations to only one bloc of nations, especially when the two parties are negotiating to bring about China's reunification.

Paz Aguilar cited as example the fact that the superpowers have diplomatic and consular relations with Beijing, the capital of the PRC, and continue to have trade relations with Taiwan.

Paz Aguilar believes the distinction given to President Carlos Roberto Reina yesterday in the National Assembly is justly deserved. He said that reports that the Liberal Party intends to make him rector of the National Autonomous University of Honduras are unfounded. In his judgment, that institution should preserve its identity and have its own authorities solve its problems.

Regarding the agreement reached between the United States and Haiti, Paz Aguilar said: "It pleases us. It is not perfect, but it is workable. Above all, bloodshed has been avoided."

Regarding the task of marking the boundary, Paz Aguilar said they would start either today or tomorrow, since the Honduran and Salvadoran commissions have already advanced the agreements to begin that task.

Foreign Ministry Press Release on Ties With Taiwan

PA2609210094 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 Sep 94 p 10

["Press Release No. 40" issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Honduran Foreign Relations Secretariat in Tegucigalpa on 22 September]

[Text] In light of a communique published by His Excellency Huang Chuan-li, ambassador of the Republic of China [ROC], the Honduran Foreign Relations Secretariat wishes to voice its opinion.

1. It recognizes and praises the traditional and firm ties of friendship and cooperation that exist between the two countries.
2. The visit by the Honduran foreign minister and other high-ranking government officials to the PRC constituted an initial step for instituting economic and trade relations, as was announced in due time.
3. The Government of the Republic of Honduras has not been pressured to modify its current relations with the ROC Government, with which it expects to continue having ties that benefit both countries.
4. It regrets that this sovereign decision by the Government of Honduras has caused concern to the distinguished ambassador, Huang Chuan-li.

Issued in Tegucigalpa on 22 September 1994 by the Information and Press Directorate of the Foreign Relations Secretariat

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Nicaragua

40 Former Sandinist Soldiers Occupy Venezuelan Embassy

PA2709032594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2218 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Managua, 26 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Approximately 40 former Sandinist military officers who seized the Venezuelan Embassy in Nicaragua today threatened to remain there and not allow the detained diplomatic staff to leave as long as the Nicaraguan Government fails to pay their retirement indemnifications.

An undetermined number of civilian and diplomatic staffers, including Ambassador Juan Jose Monsant, is inside the embassy, which experienced a similar 11-hour takeover in June 1994.

"This takeover is peaceful, but if the police want to force us out, we do not know what could happen," said the leader of the occupiers who identified himself as "007."

A secretary of the Venezuelan Embassy who declined to identify herself and to whom ACAN-EFE was able to talk confirmed "the protest was peaceful." As she reported that Ambassador Monsant was contacting his government to evaluate the situation, she added: "I do not feel as if I was kidnapped; I feel as if I am being held hostage, because I had to leave the office at 1400 (2000 GMT)."

Authorities have failed for the time being to term this action a kidnapping, as was the case in June when the occupiers left the embassy after being guaranteed their economic demands would be met. A contingent of riot police cordoned off the area near the embassy, however.

No police source has reported what actions the police will take regarding the takeover.

It seems the former military men are unarmed, and this action at the embassy is one of the many former Army members and demobilized "contras" have staged in the last few years since peace was signed in 1990, following eight years of civil war, to bring attention to their demands.

The group of less than 40 former soldiers, who were under the control of the Government Ministry, unexpectedly entered the embassy, which is located in southern Managua, in order to exert pressure on the government of Violeta Chamorro to ensure it will pay them the indemnification promised for rejoining civilian life.

"We are no longer willing to allow people to play with the hunger of 11,000 ministry members who have been thrown out into the streets since 1990 without being paid an indemnification," said the group leader in statements given via telephone to a Managua radio station.

He also read a document urging the Chamorro government, besides demanding their economic claims, to appoint a commission "authorized" to immediately negotiate with them.

The Sandinist military members accused Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta in the document of failing to honor "a number of commitments and obligation agreements" previously signed to meet their demands.

In addition to demanding the payment of their indemnifications, they are demanding a "salary adjustment" for all police agents and Nicaraguan Government Ministry staffers.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman has said the Chamorro government is trying to solve the problem as soon as possible and "in the most viable fashion."

The Venezuelan Embassy was taken over for 11 hours in early June by 23 former Sandinist military members who were also demanding the payment of indemnifications for having being laid off in the last four years.

Venezuelan Envoy, Employees Leave Embassy

PA2709033394 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2358 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Managua, 26 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Juan Jose Monsant, Venezuelan ambassador to Nicaragua, and seven Nicaraguan employees at the embassy left the building today after being detained for more than three hours by approximately 40 former Sandinist military members, who remain inside the embassy.

"We can do nothing. We cannot solve Nicaraguan domestic problems," Monsant said as he left. Without giving additional details, he said "all contacts" have been made.

The former military men, who are asking the Nicaraguan Government to pay their indemnifications, have said they will not leave the diplomatic building, which a similar group seized in June 1994, as long as their demands are not met.

Government: 'No Negotiating Possibilities'

PA2709045394 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0228 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Managua, 26 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government today informed a group of former Sandinist military members who are occupying the Venezuelan Embassy that "there are no negotiating possibilities" to resolve their demands, "because there is no money."

The official position of the Violeta Chamorro government was relayed tonight to the nearly 40 embassy occupants by Vilma Nunez, director of the pro-Sandinist Nicaraguan Human Rights Center (CENIDH).

The human rights activist arrived at the occupied embassy complying with a mission by Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta and the former military members in view of the fact that no government official could be sent to the Venezuelan Embassy.

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Among other economic grievances, the protesters are demanding four months for each year of service during the last decade when the Sandinists ruled.

Nunez recommended to the former military members "not to despair" and said that "all possible mechanisms and resources must be studied to see if a quick and satisfactory outcome to the problem can be found."

The CENIDH director, in brief statements to the press after relaying the government position, expressed concern "over the impasse" in the occupied embassy.

The embassy, to which no government official has gone, is located in the southern part of this capital and is in darkness due to the power cuts that are affecting all of Nicaragua.

Venezuelan Ambassador Juan Jose Monsant and personnel comprising seven Nicaraguans, left the embassy three hours after the occupation began at about 1400 (2000 GMT).

The head of the Venezuelan mission, in brief statements to the press, said that the Nicaraguan Government is responsible for the embassy's installations.

Panama

Former Regime Officials Return Following Pardon

PA2609173494 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Sep 94 p E-16

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] With the presidential pardon, former military regime officials who had gone into exile in foreign countries are starting to return to Panama, including former legislator Luis Gomez. Meanwhile, 11 others who where in Panamanian jails have been released and now are in their respective houses.

EL PANAMA AMERICA has learned that Gomez, who had been in Cuba since May 1991, has returned to Panama and is now attempting to resume his law practice.

Meanwhile, a Liberal Party spokesman said former Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon who went into exile in Ecuador has no immediate plans to return to the country.

Also pardoned was former President Manuel Solis Palma, who was sentenced to a four-year prison term for forming the Dignity Battalions and is still in Venezuela.

The list of pardoned individuals who are still abroad includes journalist Carlos Nunez, Rafael Mezquita, Darisnel Espino, Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, and Teresita Tapia.

Perez Balladares' pardon also granted freedom to nine former officials. The only civilians who benefited from the presidential decree are former Attorney General Carlos Villalaz and Chiriqui-born Erick Staff. Staff was under investigation in connection with the Boquete attack.

The following soldiers also were released: Richard Rueda, Ricardo King, Lucinio Miranda, Carlos Saldana, Juan Ramon Gomez, Anibal Maylin, Tomas Valdes, Jorge Jaen G., and Luis Carlos Chavez.

Attorney Ana Belfon, who is former Attorney General Villalaz's defense lawyer, said her client would prefer not to make statements because he is very distraught after being imprisoned for four years, adding that he now plans to rest in the interior of the country.

Meanwhile, Staff's lawyers announced they will request that the case against him be dropped in an effort to benefit others linked to in the Boquete attack but who were not included in the pardon.

Immediate Reaction Group Joins National Police

PA2509012694 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Sep 94 p 4

[Article by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] The Immediate Reaction Group (GRI), specializing in counterinsurgency and terrorism missions, which was created by the Guillermo Endara government, will now officially form part of the National Police.

According to a police source, the GRI joined the ranks of the National Police on Thursday, when they came under the orders of its director, Oswaldo Fernandez.

The incorporation of this specialized group into the National Police was ordered by Government and Justice Minister Raul Montenegro to reinforce operations against crime, which are in their second phase and involve clashes with organized crime groups.

The ceremony was held at the National Police installations yesterday. It was presided over by Fernandez and other members of the directorate.

Fernandez said the GRI will initiate its mission in Panama City, but he did not rule out the possibility that if any emergency comes up, it could be sent to any part of the country.

The GRI was created during President Endara's administration and its members have special training in fighting counterinsurgencies, terrorism, and kidnappings and in raids, release of hostages, as well as other specialized missions. It was also reported that the group was trained in the United States and Puerto Rico.

The supreme chief of this specialized group was Endara. Its members had their base at Fort Amador, from where they participated in various missions, one of the latest tasks being the kidnapping case in Villa Lucre.

The GRI is made up of professionals chosen from among the various state security organizations.

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As LA PRENSA was able to learn, the members of the GRI will form part of the operations against crime, which the National Police has been conducting and which have been dubbed: "Strictness with Courtesy."

U.S. Southern Command Blamed for Drop in Car Sales

PA2509031694 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Sep 94 p A-28

[Report by A. Sanchez Belisle]

[Text] Nestor Martinez, director of the Panamanian Car Dealers Association [Asociacion de Distribuidores de Autos de Panama—ADAP] director, yesterday reported that new car sales have dropped in the country because of the large amount of used cars imported and the car auctions held by the U.S. Southern Command in Corozal.

He told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA: "the used cars imported by people and companies are deteriorated, have too much mileage, have become delapidated too quickly, and do not have taxes paid on them properly," adding that used car sales increased during the last year and constitute "unfair competition," because those who are in the used car business do not pay import duties to the Treasury, and their proceeds are not taxed.

Martinez underscored that due to this irregularity, the Panamanian State will collect only half the import duties on new cars this year, as compared to 1993.

"The state collected about $25 million worth on new car import duties in 1993, but due to used car imports, it will collect approximately $14 million in 1994," the ADAP director pointed out.

He also reported that the Southern Command has now become a used car dealer and is apparently bringing cars from bases outside Panama to sell them at public auctions held in Corozal, adding: "a retired U.S. Army colonel, named Stovie, is in charge of these operations."

The car dealer also said: "The Southern Command is selling a large amount of cars used by the Army at ridiculous prices, which is forbidden."

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Argentina

Di Tella: Democracy 'Only' Solution for Cuba

PY2609230294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2514 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Barranquilla, Colombia, 26 Sep (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said today that Cuba is a dictatorship and the only way out is democracy since Fidel Castro's economic policy is "a resounding failure."

Di Tella said this at the Barranquilla city airport. The plane aboard which he was traveling to New York to the 49th UN General Assembly, with President Carlos Menem, landed to refuel. Menem did not disembark.

Di Tella told Cadena Radial Colombiana (Caracol): "There is no way out of the crisis confronting the island without deep economic and political changes."

The Argentine foreign minister termed the U.S. embargo on Cuba "stupid," adding: "It only gives Castro an excuse to blame others for the failure that is the exclusive responsibility of Cubans."

He said President Menem is considered the "champion" of a campaign against Cuba "simply because he said what everybody thought of Cuba."

Di Tella said: "I believe the original point about President Menem is that he simply says what everybody thinks." He underscored that "Cuba is a dictatorship, not a democracy, and is doomed unless it democratizes."

He said Cuba's "state and interventionist economy has been a total failure. Cubans are to blame for the abject poverty in which they live since it is basically due to that crazy economic policy."

Grand Front, Maverick Peronists Create Congressional Bloc

PY2309194994 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 22 Sep 94 p 6

[Text] The Federal Alternative intra-bloc, which comprises 16 congressmen—13 deputies and three senators—will coordinate the congressional actions of a body that has been created through the alliance of the Grand Front and the Justicialist Change, headed by Jose Octavio Bordon.

The intra-bloc comprises Senator Mario Fadel (who on 21 September resigned from the Justicialist Party bloc); San Juan Province Senator Alfredo Avelin of the Renewal Crusade; and Bordon [a senator from Mendoza Province]. The deputies are: Alfredo Bravo, Hector Polino, Ricardo Molinas, and Guillermo Estevez Boero from the Socialist Party; Fernando "Pino" Solanas, Graciela Fernandez Meijide, and Jose Vittar from the Grand Front; and Rafael Flores, Juan Gonzalez Gaviola, Juan Miguel Marcolli, Martin Mendoza, and Cristina Zucardi, who are Bordon supporters.

The intra-bloc congressmen on 21 September held a news conference in the Lost Steps Room of Congress. They disseminated a statement in which they propose "demonstrating that Congress can be improved through a socially useful task."

The document maintains that the creation of the intra-bloc represents "another step toward the creation of an electoral political opening that will enhance democracy, make participation more easy for the people, improve control mechanisms, attack unemployment, reactivate regional economies, improve control mechanisms, and protect small- and medium-sized businesses."

Catamarca Province Senator Fadel joined the intra-bloc after resigning from the Justicialist Party senators bloc, which he joined after obtaining a place on the provincial ticket of the Civic Front, which is against [Catamarca Province Senator Ramon] Saadi.

Fadel justified his resignation, saying that economic changes have not been implemented within the political-party sphere. He said: "In Catamarca, President Menem has made a deal with Saadi that foresees the return to power of the Saadi family. Catamarca Province society will not accept this. Society experienced the spectacle of mutual insults during the intervention of the province, and now observes this new Menem-Saadi embrace with bewilderment."

Corrientes Senator Romero Feris Begins Presidential Campaign

PY2409013094 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0137 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Sep (TELAM)—During the opening ceremony for the Autonomous Party of Corrientes (PAC) National Committee headquarters, PAC Senator Jose Antonio Romero Feris today launched his campaign for presidential nomination.

Romero Feris stressed: "Despite the rumors being spread, the pact with the Liberal Party and the alliance with the Progressive Democratic Party [PDP] and other parties are fully effective."

With "A New Proposal" as his campaign's slogan, the senator from Corrientes Province emphasized, at the new PAC National Committee headquarters at 143 Callao Street in Buenos Aires, that it is necessary to offer to the voters "social sensitivity, and to take into account that the principal objects of our actions are human beings."

The legislator also emphasized that "we are committing ourselves throughout the country to national and provincial parties and to independent sectors that are disappointed with their current platforms," while praising the goal of "reaching agreement with them, as was the case with the agreement among blocs at the Constituent Assembly."

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With regard to PDP Deputy Alberto Natale's decision to become a candidate for a center-right alliance, the PAC senator said he did not know "if Natale's party had nominated Natale," emphasizing that he was indeed "nominated by the PAC."

Romero Feris added that he is willing "to work for the country with perseverance, love, and courage, and bearing in mind the Argentine people," which he described as "a duty that we have toward ourselves and toward our people."

Romero Feris emphasized: "We are concerned about unemployment, low salaries, retirees, regional economies, education, small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs, and health. I am not saying that this government has not achieved anything, but we disagree with the implementation of various measures."

In conclusion, the senator from Corrientes Province emphasized that he will "definitely" fight "corruption." He stressed his goal of "waging a battle to do away with the bipartisan system in our country." Romero Feris believes the Grand Front and Justicialism "are the same thing."

The senator noted: "We want pluralism. We want the people to choose freely so that they will not continue to choose the method they have been using over the past few years."

Justicialist Senator Establishes New Movement

PY2309202994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2016 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Sep (NA)—Senator Jose Octavio Bordon (Justicialist-Mendoza Province) established a new movement this afternoon. It is called Open Politics for Social Integrity [Politica Abierta para la Integridad Social]. He said his organization will conduct a sort of external audit to "control the assets of leaders irrespective of whether they hold government posts."

During a ceremony at the Unione e Benevolenza Club in the City of Buenos Aires, Bordon pointed out that "the concentration of power, wealth, and corruption bring about poverty and weaken the country." He added that the new party he leads will advocate that 50 percent of all the posts in party lists should be held by women."

'United Forces 94' Tasks Jointly Developed With U.S. Army

PY2609230494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1855 GMT 24 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Sep (NA)—The Army general staff reported today that, within the current exchange program with the United States Army, the scheduled "United Forces 94 [Fuerzas Unidas 94]" exercise will be carried out until 30 September.

In a press communique, the Army announces that 148 Argentine officers and NCO's and 65 U.S. officers from various strategic Army South Command, Air Force, Navy, and Marines units are participating.

The Army communique notes: "The exercise includes the planning and implementation of tactical activities, supported by a technical training computer unit, which simulates highly realistic and low-cost operations."

Menem Urges Peronists To Support Government Program

PY2609223694 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] (DYN)—President Carlos Menem urged Peronist militants yesterday to stand by the government and its economic programme and not to play into the hands of the opposition.

He promised that as from next year the government would shift its focus to the most deprived sectors of society and that it would campaign for social reform with a view to the May 14 presidential polls.

Menem was speaking at the opening session of a seminar on "priorities for the second state (of government)," attended by some 50 Justicialist leaders who are charting the party's electoral strategy.

In his 60-minute address the President called on the different party lines to overcome rivalries, especially those in the Federal district who are at loggerheads over the issue of open primaries.

"Without changing this model one bit we are now in a position to come up with solutions to social problems... because we have the funds to do so, not like in 1989 or 1990 when the Central Bank did not even have any reserves," he declared.

Menem also urged militants to close ranks behind Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde, whose re-election stakes in the October 2 provincial plebiscite he considered "significant and essential for the future."

"There are four governors who cannot be re-elected and on October 2 we can make up, in part, for the unjust situation," he said.

"We must place all our efforts this week in giving Duhalde the chance to stand for re-election."

Menem referred tacitly to dissident Peronist leader Senator Jose Octavio Bordon, saying "when one Peronist, he has joined the ranks of the opposition."

He appeared also to be alluding to his former interior minister and current candidate for city mayor Gustavo Beliz when he said: "Some colleagues want to put an angel-like veil over politics, but politicians aren't angels, we have our interests and defend them with noble and not so noble arms, depending on our personality."

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Summing up the achievements of his government, he listed state reform, lower stability and a role in international politics as the most impressive.

On poverty, Menem said the index of those under the poverty belt had fallen to 12 percent from 37 percent in 1989 while unemployment ebbed to 10 percent from 12 percent.

Christian Democrats Approve Alliance With Grand Front

PY2709002794 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0208 GMT 25 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Sep (TELAM)—The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] convention today decided to enter an alliance with the Grand Front [FG] for the 14 May 1995 elections.

PDC sources told TELAM that representatives from 20 provinces and of the three movements: youth, women, and workers, participated in the convention.

The convention also asked the PDC national executive board to sign the documents confirming the terms of the alliance with the FG.

The discussions lasted until about 2300. The convention was held at the headquarters of the Postal and Telecommunications Workers and Employees Federation (FOECYT) at 868 Pasco Street in Buenos Aires.

Greetings from FG President Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez, Senator Jose Octavio Bordon, and Socialist Deputy Guillermo Estevez Boero were received at the end of the convention.

New Culture Secretary O'Donnell Takes Office

PY2609194694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2333 GMT 21 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Sep (NA)—President Carlos Menem this afternoon administered the oath of office to the new culture secretary, Mario O'Donnell, and did not once mention Jorge Asis, who had tendered his resignation and had announced that he would send "a dwarf" to represent him.

At the Government House White Hall, Menem enthusiastically extolled O'Donnell's cultural traits and, in an unaccustomed manner, did not make any reference to Asis' brief tenure.

For his part, the former culture secretary announced to some journalists that he would send "a dwarf" to represent him at the ceremony, a gesture that, according to reports by people close to him, he finally did not carry out "because the conditions were not appropriate."

Ministers, secretaries of state, Armed Forces leaders, Jujuy Governor Eduardo Perassi, and about 200 special guests from various cultural areas were present at the ceremony.

Outstanding Radical Civic Union [UCR] leaders were not present at the White Hall. The new culture secretary is an UCR member.

Menem was applauded by the participants when he refused to describe O'Donnell as "fellow party member" or "companion." He described O'Donnell as a "friend, because there is no room for political banners in the cultural area."

Bolivia

Government 'Concerned' Over Sale of Stockpiled U.S. Tin

PY2609204694 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p B2

[Text] Mines Secretary Jaime Villalobos has said the government is concerned over the sale by the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) of tin from the national "stockpile." Villalobos added, however, that the volume traded during the first semester was less than projected.

After confirming that the PRC has sold tin "stocks," which caused an excess, Villalobos expressed concern over possible effects that could follow the sale of DLA stocks.

Prices could suffer from the excessive sale of tin by the PRC, which increased market available "stocks" from 35,000 to 55,000 metric tons in the first half of 1994.

Last year the DLA sold 6,022 metric tons of fine tin. During the period January-July 1994, it sold 4,200 metric tons. The quota authorized by Appe [Association of Tin Producing countries] is 12,000 tons, which could negatively affect the market.

In view of this, Villalobos said: "We are concerned, although sales were not as high as originally expected."

The 1993 market crisis was solved through an adjustment in the volumes exported by organization members. Bolivia reduced its PET [Permissible Export Total] of 16,300 to 16,000 metric tons.

Asked about the possibility of another adjustment, Villalobos said: "Probably, but the most important proposal (at the next Appe meeting) will be for members to fulfill their export quotas (20,000 metric tons in 1994)"

Recalling Bolivia's quota increase in the past, Villalobos said: "Bolivia has always been in a position to negotiate a slightly larger quota, while others have been cutting back."

The next Appe meeting will begin on 19 September in Bangkok, Thailand.

Seeking to reduce the level of market available "stocks" and to permit a price increase the most recent Appe ministers' meeting decided to reduce the total tonnage exported by member countries.

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China agreed to limit its exports to 20,000 metric tons. This was the PET quota assigned to the PRC by Appe upon its official entry into the organization.

Meanwhile Brazil—which participated as an observer along with the PRC—promised to reduce its production to 26,175 metric tons. The official Appe report says: "Brazil's domestic consumption is around 6,000 metric tons, so it will export around 20,175 metric tons."

Total permitted PET for Appe members is as follows: Australia—6,500 metric tons; Bolivia—16,000 metric tons; Indonesia—30,500 metric tons; Malaysia—14,000 metric tons; Nigeria—1,900 metric tons; Thailand—8,000 metric tons; and Zaire—1,100 metric tons.

Peasants 'Not Satisfied' With Alternative Development

PY2309183794 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p A8

[Article by Amparo Canedo]

[Text] Chimore-Chapare, Cochabamba, 13 Sep—Although the government explains, almost with pride, what it considers the important results of the "New Dawn" operation, the truth is that a bag of coca [125 pounds] costs 300 bolivianos in Chimore, Chapare, 80 bolivianos more than what it cost before the beginning of the operation.

In one year, the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) arrested 920 people, 364 of this number from January to August this year. Of this total, 190 were handed over to the Attorney General's office. In one year the FELCN also destroyed 280 cocaine sulfate factories with 440 maceration pits, and seized, in addition to solid and liquid precursors, 206 units of explosives, and during the last few days it found 1,000 explosives during the coca growers' march toward the Government Palace.

These figures, however, represent a temporary solution to a complex problem because as long as coca remains much more profitable than any other product, the people who were arrested and prosecuted for drug trafficking crimes will be replaced by others.

From one hectare of coca crops in the Chapare, the peasants obtain between 20 and 30 bags of coca leaves, which give the producers a net profit of between 4,000 and 7,000 bolivianos every three months. In order to obtain more than 20 bags from one hectare, the producers invest more money than a few years ago in taking care of the plants—approximately 2,000 bolivianos—because now they fertilize the terrain, they weed out the plantations, and spray them to prevent the "sica" (a type of butterfly) from eating part of the coca leaves.

While the coca producers obtain that net profit, the banana growers, for instance, from a piece of land three times larger obtain in three months only 1,800 bolivianos, approximately.

Moreover, it is not only the low prices of alternative products, the problems with transport, and the lack of markets and "exporters" that represent a bottleneck in replacing the coca crops; it is also the supposed aid that was to be granted by the Alternative Development Project, which for many producers of the Chapare was just another affront to the peasants by the government.

In Chimore, before reaching the Path B [Senda B], the Alternative Development Project had built a banana packing plant for exports, which the community supported through contributions of beams and even money; however, this plant was not even dedicated because it was built in a place where there is no water, which is vital for banana packing.

Now the cement tables built for packing are used by some workers to seek shelter from the sun and to eat their snacks before continuing their work.

And this is not all; the Alternative Development Project also built a shed for drying yuca, which collapsed before it was used.

The producers are now asking for "formal" and "serious" projects, because "one day someone will show up to say that he is a banana exporter but he will disappear overnight, leaving us in great fear. And besides, they take too long to pay us."

"We are not satisfied. We are deceived. We receive aid to export while there is financial aid. But this ends quickly and then there is nothing left in the place," the peasants complain.

If the Alternative Development Project was just a fairy tale for the Chapare producers, the "New Dawn" operation initiated by this government is just another, although the difference is based on the fear this operation has caused the peasants, including the townspeople who have nothing to do with the coca production, its marketing, and its processing. To a great extent, this fear caused by the antidrug forces in the Chapare is due to the fact that they make such a "tremendous show of force" and treat the people very badly, regardless of what they might be.

'Historic' Agreement Signed To Begin New Antidrug Policy

PY2609205594 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Sep 94 p A7

[Text] A historic agreement has been signed by representatives of the government, the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation], coca producers, the church, businessmen, and other Bolivian society institutions. Under the agreement, Bolivia last night began an important new stage in the antidrug struggle which is no longer subordinate to foreign impositions.

It was near midnight when President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and representatives of other organizations

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signed the agreement that seeks to nationalize the antidrug fight under completely new terms.

The concept begins with a revision of Law 1008 and a commitment to begin an international drive to decriminalize coca, both by the international community and under national laws.

The agreement signed last night has 10 points. Its text reads as follows:

1. One of the most complex and dangerous phenomena of our times is the manufacture, marketing, and consumption of drugs. This phenomenon generates economic, social, ethical, and political effects of incalculable scope in the world, but most of all it affects countries like Bolivia which are structurally more vulnerable.

2. The surplus coca production—motivated by the demand for drugs, the marketing and illegal use of precursors, and the laundering of drug money—is part of this scourge, which adversely affects mankind.

3. Because of its international scope and complex nature, trafficking must be fought through a world strategy in which each involved country must participate in accordance with its responsibility, economic capacity, and its level of production, marketing, and consumption of drugs.

4. Bolivia, consistent with the values and principles of its people, reaffirms its firm decision to fulfill its moral responsibility by adamantly fighting trafficking and addiction; not as a consequence of foreign impositions, but in the full exercise of its sovereignty and in accordance with national interests.

5. Within this framework, the following are considered essential:

a. To prepare and implement an integral development plan in coca producing zones which will be consistently and reasonably related to the country's rural development. The struggle against poverty will be the main objective. Credits, technical assistance, infrastructure, and other support required by farmers to fulfill a productive task must not be subjected to unrelated conditions.

b. The development of rural areas—and within them, the coca producing zones—must follow national decisions that will be supported by friendly countries and international organizations called to cooperate because of the plan's international nature.

c. In the preparation and implementation of rural development programs—even in coca-producing zones—farmers must be allowed to play a leading role because there is a great difference between farmers and traffickers. That difference must prevail in government structures as well as in operational levels related to coca-cocaine problems.

6. Considering the experience gained and the petition submitted by several sectors of the population—referring to amendments to Law 1008—a recommendation has been made to begin a broad national debate prior to a consideration by Congress.

7. The organizations in charge of the antidrug struggle must be improved. The struggle against crimes in this area must be strong, serious, and honest. Respect for the rights of coca producers and of all Bolivians must be guaranteed. We all have constitutional rights that must be respected.

8. The communications media publicize events that happen within society and the state. The information provided to reporters by the different sectors, and that conveyed by reporters to society, must be true, clear, and appropriate.

9. We must submit a request for international cooperation to verify the characteristics and nature of coca. Thus, based on these ideas, we can begin an international decriminalization campaign.

10. Finally, the participating institutions stress that the meeting was held within a climate of peace, participation, and true consensus among Bolivians, based on respect for the rights of all, and on the principles of social justice.

The document was signed by COB leader Oscar Salas; by the representative of the Confederation of Private Companies; by Evo Morales, representing the Cochabamba Tropical Region Workers Federation; by representatives of three federations of the Tropics and Yungas; by Government Minister German Quiroga, representing the executive branch; by representatives of the Association of Reporters; by representatives of the Press Workers Federation; by representatives of the Chamber of Communications Media; by representatives of the General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia; by representatives of the coloners; by representatives of the Armed Forces; and by representatives of the Bolivian Police. The Episcopal Conference participated in the debate but did not sign the document. The meetings were chaired by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

Drug Policy Talks With U.S. Expected To Be 'Most Difficult'

PY2609214294 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 18 Sep 94 p 7

[Text] The document signed by the government and representative national institutions on 16 September will help reformulate the drug enforcement strategy to make it more independent. Government officials agree, however, that the most difficult negotiations for President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada will be those with the U.S. Government.

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Although no date has yet been set, President Sanchez de Lozada will call—perhaps as early as this week—the U.S. ambassador, representatives of international organizations, and European governments that are cooperating with Bolivia in drug enforcement efforts.

The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] and coca growers believe it will be impossible to reconcile the Bolivian and U.S. policies on drug enforcement, but the Bolivian Government believes no new option can be undertaken without the support of the international community.

COB leader Oscar Salas and peasant leader Evo Morales believe Bolivia will be unable to reconcile its ideas with those of the U.S. Government, which "imposes" the eradication of coca plantations. Social Communications Minister Ernesto Machicao said a consensus must be reached both domestically and with those countries that cooperate with Bolivia in drug enforcement efforts and in alternative development programs.

The Bolivian Government believes an agreement should be reached with the international community, not just for financial reasons but also because "we are living in an interdependent world in which even the most powerful countries, the United States included, need agreements with allies."

The document signed by the government and nine national organizations—including the COB, the church, and businessmen—includes most of the demands of the coca growers. The document seeks to decriminalize coca planting and to revise Law 1008 with a view to distinguishing coca from the drug trafficking issue; a distinction that is not accepted by the U.S. administration.

On the day the agreement was signed, U.S. Ambassador Charles Bowers—in one of his last official actions—made it clear his country will never purchase surplus coca production because his government considers coca to be cocaine.

Bowers, who in a few days will end his mission in Bolivia, said the coca produced in Chapare is used for trafficking and should therefore be eradicated. In remarks to the press in Cochabamba, he said: "Bolivia must decide between continuing to export cocaine or doing something else."

The government is determined to continue its consultations to reformulate its drug enforcement policy. Machicao said the executive branch is aware of the difficulties it must face to reconcile polarized positions. He made it clear that the government is not seeking a confrontation of positions, but ways to address the drug problem with better chances of success.

The government spokesman said: "The worst thing would be to do nothing. Our dialogue with national institutions has shown that, despite conflicting positions, we share points of agreement."

Brazil

Cardoso's Draft Government Model Examined

PY2609184594 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 22 Sep 94 p 7

[By Claudia Safatle from Brasilia]

[Text] A strong Planalto Palace and operational and executive ministries. This is the administrative model the Brazilian Social Democracy Party [PSDB] members are drafting to support the government to be installed if Fernando Henrique Cardoso wins the presidential elections. The structure conceived by the main advisers of the PSDB/PFL [Liberal Front Party]/PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] coalition would imply broad political coordination at the Civilian Household, in accordance with the standards established by General Golbery do Couto e Silva [Civilian Household chief during the military regime], but within a democratic framework.

It is also part of the PSDB plans to increase the power of the Secretariat General of the Presidency of the Republic, which would become the center to coordinate policies that will be implemented by the ministries. As a matter of fact, the idea is to considerably reduce the number of ministries existing at present.

The overall change in the organization of power would seek not only to make the government more reasonable, but also ensure a better flow of information to the president of the Republic. It would also be a way of diluting the power and influence of the electoral campaign allies.

The PSDB members would like to prevent auctioning of positions and the give-and-take habits that have marked the last administrations, particularly after 1986. They admit they must discuss the possibility of winning the elections in the first round and are hoping for that because it would be a way of reducing the "political cost" of having to seek alliances for the runoff. The presidential candidate himself said in a meeting with a group of artists in Rio de Janeiro on 20 September: "I had to make an alliance (with the Liberal Front Party) before beginning the campaign because if I did it later, it would have had a higher cost on Congress." He explained that by "cost" he meant the obligation of auctioning positions in his administration if he wins the elections, "which is a thing I do not want to do."

To win the elections in the first round would also be crucial for the constitutional review. Elected in October, the new administration would try to send to Congress, through the current administration, the "deconstitutionalization" proposal that has been recently mentioned by adviser Edmar Bacha. This means that it would seek to obtain from the Congress, during the current administration's last days in office, the elimination from the 1988 Constitution of chapters related to themes that call for reforms. This proposal was originally conceived by Deputy Jose Serra (PSDB-Sao Paulo) only for the

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chapter that refers to taxes. Redrafted by Bacha, the proposal called for the elimination of the chapter on fiscal reform, the social Welfare Ministry, and the labor market, among others, as well as transforming them into common legislative matters.

Thus, the structural reforms could be implemented during the first six months of government, through draft bills. An important PSDB leader said: "If we do not make the reforms during the first six months in office, we will not be able to govern."

Roundup of Electoral Reports

PY2409002094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on electoral activities in Brazil leading up to the 3 October general elections, as monitored through 23 September.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Superior Electoral Court (TSE) estimates that nearly 35,000 candidates will be running for public office on 3 October. The following offices will be filled during the elections: one president and one vice president of the Republic; 27 state governors and lieutenant governors; 54 senators, two for each state, who serve eight-year terms; 513 federal deputies; and 1,059 state deputies, who serve for four years. All told, the electoral courts will supervise five elections designed to fill 1,700 offices. (Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Sep 94)

Nearly half of the 94.5 million voters who are eligible to vote on 3 October reside in the southeastern region of Brazil, which consists of three states: Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro. More than 40 million voters reside in these states. (Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 20 Sep 94)

Of the 11,964 candidates who will run for public office in the 3 October elections, 68 are semi-illiterate. This means they can hardly read and write their own name. Of these 68, 54 are running for state legislative assemblies, 13 for the Federal Chamber of Deputies, and 1 for the Senate. Two gubernatorial candidates are not Brazilian. This information is included in the candidates profile report released by the Superior Electoral Court. According to the profile, the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) is the party with the most candidates. It is followed by the Workers Party (PT) and the Democratic Labor Party (PDT). The party with fewest candidates is the Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B), which is running in the elections with six candidates. (Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Sep 94)

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Aloisio Mercadante, vice presidential candidate for the Popular Brazil Front, is sure that in the second round of voting his front will receive the support of Leonel Brizola's PDT. According to Mercadante, their joint action before the TSE demanding the cancellation of Fernando Henrique Cardoso's candidacy demonstrates the closeness between the two parties. He also maintains that several regional PMDB sections in the states of Sao Paulo, Goias, Paraiba, and Parana have joined Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's campaign. Mercadante denied disagreeing with Lula in absolving President Itamar Franco from being directly responsible for the use of the government apparatus in favor of Cardoso's candidacy. "Ours is an ethical position; we do not make personal attacks. We both agree, however, that the entire government is involved in promoting the candidacy of Fernando Henrique," he said. (Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 9 Sep 94 p 6)

TSE President Sepulveda Pertence has briefed political representatives on vote count procedures for the 3 October elections. He announced that over 3,500 computers have been set up throughout the country which will be directly linked to state capitals and to the TSE computer center. After criticizing Congress for not having authorized the use of two ballot boxes at each polling place, Pertence said he believed that the results of the presidential elections would not be known until 15 days after voting day. The TSE will be charged with counting and releasing the results of the presidential elections, while the regional electoral court in each state will be in charge of counting and releasing the results of votes concerning federal senators, federal and state deputies, and governors. (Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Sep 94)

For the first time in his political career, PMDB candidate Orestes Quercia is disbanding his electoral campaign before the elections take place. His state campaign committees are being closed down and his campaign employees are being dismissed. The operation yesterday hit the heart of his campaign: The large campaign office on Gabriel Monteiro Street, in the high-class Jardins district, was closed down and half of the employees dismissed. Quercia, who during his life has run in six elections and won all of them, has been abandoned by top PMDB leaders, who are openly joining the candidacy of Fernando Henrique Cardoso. To avoid outright resignation, Quercia has left open the PMDB political committee and the women's, youth, and labor committees in Sao Paulo, where the 8 October Revolutionary Movement (MR-8) members are still carrying out street campaigns. "He already admits defeat, but is making an orderly retreat. He will help his friends gain congressional seats to guarantee a large PMDB bloc in Congress, and will attempt to maintain his control over the PMDB in Sao Paulo. Quercia has yet not decided whether or not to cancel the 11 rallies scheduled in several states. He wants to show support for PMDB leaders who still remain faithful to him. His idea is to get the most from the free radio and television electoral programs and to concentrate his campaign in Sao Paulo, where he is

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battling for control of the PMDB with Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho." (Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Sep 94 p 7)

In its latest poll, conducted from 15 to 20 September, the Gallup Institute shows that Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB) candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso has dropped in popularity from 50 to 55.3 percent among class A voters and from 39.2 to 34.9 percent among class D and E voters. Yet support for Cardoso remained unchanged among class B and C voters. By contrast, support for Lula has remained unchanged in all but in class A, in which it grew from 14.6 to 18.9 percent. Lula's supporters come mainly from class C voters. Cardoso, with 47.8 percent, and Lula, with 25.7 percent, are the favorite candidates among university educated voters. Cardoso has more voters in the northern and central western regions, with 48.9 percent; Lula in the northeastern region, with 23.2 percent; and Quercia in the southeastern region, with 7.6 percent. Most of Cardoso's voters reside in cities within the 30,000 to 100,000 population range; Lula's reside in the capital cities; and Quercia's in cities within the 10,000-30,000 population range. The Gallup poll shows that 52.2 percent of voters have already decided their vote, 42.5 percent remain undecided, and 5.3 percent would cast void votes. (Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 94 p A14)

STATE CAMPAIGNS

According to a survey conducted by the Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute (IBOPE) among 800 voters on 6-11 September, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes of the Liberal Front Party (PFL), with 57 percent of voters' preference, and Waldir Pires of the PSDB, with 27 percent, are expected to win the two senatorial seats for Bahia State. PFL candidates Hugo Napoleao, with 65 percent, and Freitas Neto, with 50 percent, are expected to win the two seats for Piaui State. Teotonio Villela Filho of the PSDB, with 41 percent, and Renan Calheiros of the PMDB, with 39 percent, are expected to win the Senate seats for Alagoas State. Jader Barbalho of the PMDB, with 46 percent, and Ademir Andrade of the Brazilian Socialist Party, with 39 percent, are the front runners for the two Senate seats in Para State. PFL candidate Francelino Pereira, with 21 percent; and Virgilio Guimaraes of the PT are the leading Senate candidates in Minas Gerais. Antonio Carlos Valadares of the Popular Party (PP) with 42 percent; Jose Carlos Teixeira of the PMDB with 35 percent; and Lourival Baptista of the PFL with 34 percent are the leading contenders for the two Senate seats in Sergipe. PP candidate Bernardo Cabral, with 38 percent; Jose Dutra of the PMDB, with 30 percent; and Francisco Garcia of the PFL with 26 percent are contending for the two seats in Amazonas. Carlos Bezerra of the PMDB, with 34 percent; Jonas Pinheiro da Silva of the PFL, with 29 percent; and Louremberg Nunes Rocha, with 27 percent, are the leading candidates in Mato Grosso. PDT candidates Bianco and Amorim are leading the race in Rondonia, with 30 and 25 percent respectively. PMDB candidate Amir Lando is still in the race with 20 percent. PSDB candidate Ludio Coelho, with 45 percent; PT candidate Ary Rigo, with 25 percent; PMDB candidate Ramez Tebet with 20 percent; and PP candidate Rachid Derzi with 19 percent of voters' preference are the leading candidates in Mato Grosso do Sul. PFL candidate Vilson Kleinubing, with 30 percent; PMDB candidate Cacildo Maldaner, with 16 percent; Luis Gomes of the Progressive Renewal Party, with 10 percent; and PT candidate Luci Choinaski, with 9 percent, are the leading candidates in Santa Catarina. (Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Sep 94 p 4)

Although there is a high 80 percent rate of undecided voters in the State of Espirito Santo, the remaining 20 percent of voters who expressed an opinion could be broken down in the following manner: former Governor Gerson Camata from the PMDB has 32 percent of voters' preference, followed by former Minister Jose Inacio Ferreira from the PSDB, with 25 percent; voters who said they would either cast a blank vote or void their votes make up 20 percent; those who said they would not vote for anyone make up 11 percent; Jones dos Santos Neves, from the Liberal Party (PL), has 9 percent of voters' preference; Eurico Rezente from the Progressive Renewal Party (PPR), has 7 percent; Helio Gualberto, from the PT, and Marcia Machado from the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), both have 5 percent; Dailson Laranja, from the PMDB, has 3 percent; and Antonio Carlos Alvarenga from the Democratic Social Party (PSD) has 2 percent. (Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Sep 94 p 7)

According to a Datafolha poll carried out on 14 and 15 September in which the names of the candidates were written down on paper for those polled, the position of the gubernatorial candidates in each state are as follows:

Rio de Janeiro: Marcello Alencar, from the PSDB, has 34 percent of the voters preference; Anthony Garotinho, from the PDT, has 29 percent; Newton Cruz, from the PSD, has 9 percent; Jorge Bittar, from the PT, has 8 percent; Milton Goncalves, from the PMDB, has 5 percent; blank or null 7 percent; do not know 6 percent.

Parana: Jaime Lerner, from the PDT, has 49 percent; Alvaro Dias, from the PP, has 40 percent; Jorge Samek, from the PT, has 3 percent; blank or null votes 3 percent; do not know 4 percent.

Santa Catarina: Angela Amin, from the PPR, has 40 percent; Paulo Afonso, from the PMDB, has 29 percent; Jorge Konder Bornhausen, from the PFL, has 10 percent; Nelson Wedekin, from the PDT, has 9 percent; blank or null votes 5 percent; do not know 6 percent.

Rio Grande do Sul: Antonio Britto, from the PMDB, has 50 percent; Olivio Dutra, from the PT, has 23 percent; Celso Bernardi, from the PPR, has 8 percent; Sereno Chaise, from the PDT, has 4 percent; Jose Gomes, from the National Reconstruction Party (PRN), has 1 percent;

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Irapuan Teixeira, from the National Order Redefinition Party (Prona), has 0 percent; blank votes 4 percent; do not know 10 percent.

Minas Gerais: Helio Costa, from the PP, has 49 percent; Eduardo Azeredo, from the PSDB, has 17 percent; Jose Alencar, from the PMDB, has 9 percent; Antonio Carlos Pereira, Carlao, from the PT, has 5 percent; blank votes 6 percent; do not know 12 percent.

Bahia: Paulo Souto, from the PFL, has 40 percent; Joao Durval Carneiro, from the National Mobilization Party (PMN), has 20 percent; Jutahy Magalhaes, from the PSDB, has 13 percent; Nilo Coelho, from the PMDB, has 9 percent; blank votes 8 percent; do not know 9 percent.

Ceara: Tasso Jereissati, from the PSDB, has 61 percent; Juraci Magalhaes, from the PMDB, has 30 percent; Rosa da Fonseca, from the Unified Socialist Workers Party (PSTU), has 1 percent; Joaquim Cartaxo, from the PT, has 1 percent; Lins, from Prona, has 0 percent; blank votes 2 percent; do not know 4 percent.

Pernambuco: Miguel Arraes, from the PSB, has 59 percent; Gustavo Krause, from the PFL, has 20 percent; Cid Sampaio, from the PMDB, has 5 percent; Joaquim Magalhaes, from the PSTU, has 2 percent; Pinto from the PRN has 1 percent; blank votes 5 percent; do not know 8 percent.

Mato Grosso do Sul: Wilson-Barbosa Martins, from the PMDB, has 49 percent; Levy Dias, from the PPR, has 32 percent; Pedro Teruel, from the PT, has 7 percent; Rita de Cassia, from Prona, has 3 percent; blank votes 5 percent; do not know 5 percent.

Goias: Maguito Vilela, from the PMDB, has 41 percent; Lucia Vania, from the PP, has 25 percent; Ronaldo Caiado, from the PFL, has 18 percent; Luiz Antonio, from the PT, has 3 percent; blank votes 4 percent; do not know 7 percent.

Federal District: Valmir Campello, from the PTB, has 45 percent; Maria de Lourdes Abadia, from the PSDB, has 24 percent; Cristovam Buarque, from the PT, has 19 percent; Timm, from the PDT, has 1 percent; Ferreira from the Social Christian Party (PSC), has 0 percent; blank votes 6 percent; do not know 5 percent. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Sep 94 Special Supplement p 5)

According to a poll carried out by Datafolha on 14 and 15 September, the leading senatorial candidates in the following states are:

Rio de Janeiro: Benedita da Silva, from the PT, has 32 percent of the voters preference; Nelson Carneiro, from the PP, has 25 percent; Arthur da Tavola, from the PSDB, has 24 percent; Saturnino Braga, from the PSB, has 18 percent; and Jorge Alberto SIlveira, from the PDT, has 14 percent.

Ceara: Lucio Alcantara, from the PDT, has 41 percent; Mauro Benevides, from the PMDB, has 28 percent; Sergio Machado, from the PSDB, has 26 percent; Maria Luiza Fontenelle, from the PSTU, has 15 percent; and Cid Carvalho, from the PMDB, has 15 percent.

Federal District: Jose Roberto Arruda, from the PP, has 37 percent; Lauro Campos, from the PT, has 35 percent; Marcia Kubitschek, from the PP, has 32 percent; Sigmaringa Seixas, from the PSDB, has 17 percent; and Carlos Alberto, from the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), has 14 percent.

Parana: Roberto Requiao, from the PMDB, has 64 percent; Osmar Dias, from the PP, has 33 percent; Tony Garcia, from the PRN, 25 percent.

Pernambuco: Roberto Freire, from the PPS, has 35 percent; Carlos Wilson, from the PSDB, has 28 percent; Armando Monteiro, from the PDT, has 21 percent; and Maurilio Ferreira Lima, from the PSDB, has 15 percent.

Goias: Iris Rezende, from the PMDB, has 69 percent; Paulo Roberto, from the PPR, has 30 percent; Mauro Miranda, from the PMDB, has 28 percent; and Nion Albernaz, from the PPR, has 16 percent.

Rio Grande do Sul: Jose Fogaca, from the PMDB, has 38 percent; Cesar Schirmer, from the PMDB, has 22 percent; Aldo Pinto, from the PDT, has 17 percent; and Raul Pont, from the PT, has 11 percent. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Sep 94 Special Supplement p 6)

Amorim Advocates Integration Between Mercosur, Africa

PY2609234194 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 22 Sep 94 p 5

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi from Brasilia]

[Excerpts] During the opening session of the third meeting of member countries from the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone on 21 September, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim proposed establishing "creative integration formulas" between the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC).

The SADC was until 1992 a coordinating conference. South Africa joined the SADC two weeks ago and it has subsequently been trying to reconcile regional economies with a view to achieving integration.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella stressed that the objective of the meeting—which will end in Brasilia today and in which 23 countries participated—"was to establish subtle ties between Africa and South America," adding that "there will be no major results in the short term" concerning business cooperation between the two regions.

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South Africa, which was officially accepted as a member of the South Atlantic Peace and Cooperation Zone on 21 September, is the leading economy within the SADC since it accounts for 78 percent of the regional GDP and 80 percent of electricity generation for southern Africa. Mario Vilava, a diplomat who was first secretary in South Africa, said this country's foreign trade is double that of the other 10 member countries put together.

The following are members of SADC: Namibia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Swaziland, and Zambia.

The foreign ministers and representatives of the 23 South Atlantic countries will release four documents today on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone, the preservation of the marine environment, business cooperation, and a general declaration. [passage omitted]

Di Tella said "it would be a great step forward" if the South Atlantic countries voiced their desire to establish a nuclear-free zone. Amorim confirmed that this is precisely what the declaration will include. "The objective is to declare the South Atlantic region a nuclear-free zone," he said.

South African representative Bantubonke Holomisa, vice-minister for the environment and tourism, recalled that his country's monetary authorities are reducing tariffs and designing a code to attract foreign investments. He said the establishment of conditions so that economic activities may flourish in South Africa is a top priority for President Nelson Mandela.

The 23 countries, including Angola, which is at war, will sign the four documents. Commenting on the situation in Angola, Amorim said: "I would like to make here a pressing and vehement plea for the end of hostilities in Angola. The death toll and the number of people maimed in this terrible conflict are really appalling. In the Peace and Cooperation Zone that we seek to develop and consolidate, there is no room for wars—even less wars between brothers. We thus entreat the parties involved and the world powers which influence the situation to do their utmost to end this spilling of blood."

Chile

Socialists, Christian Democrats Confirm Support for Frei

PY2409025094 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Socialist Party [PS] have stated that although they have different views regarding the cabinet changes, there is no doubt of their loyalty to the administration.

Before the meeting held by the PDC and PS leadership, the PDC leaders went to La Moneda Palace where they met with new Interior Minister Carlos Figueroa. PDC President Alejandro Foxley voiced his support for the cabinet changes, pointing out that it is a good thing to have a government that governs and a president who exercises his presidential authority.

Immediately after the meeting with Figueroa, the PDC leadership went to PS headquarters to meet with the Socialist leaders headed by Camilo Escalona.

During the one-hour meeting, the representatives of the two parties stated that although they have different views regarding the cabinet changes, they agreed on the need for new coordination.

[Begin recording] [Escalona] As Alejandro Foxley has stated, we feel that this marks a new phase in which we must determine—because it is a new phase—the ways in which the parties are going to relate to the government.

[Foxley] I am very optimistic, and certain that together we are going to solve the problems that may surface. The administration can rest assured that there is a loyal government coalition that is going to back it, and which is going to contribute to making important changes, which is what the people expect from President Frei's administration. [end recording]

Cabinet Reshuffle Creates Concerns of Coalition Rupture

PY2709011094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0757 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Article by Matilde Wolter]

[Text] Santiago, 26 Sep (EFE)—The first crisis of Chilean President Eduardo Frei's government, which culminated in the replacement of the socialists, has unleashed fears of a rupture within the government coalition that has governed since 1990. The Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] mainly comprises the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the Socialist Party (PS), and the center-leftist Party for Democracy (PPD).

Frei wanted the leaders of the leftist parties for his first government plan and was able to get German Correa—the former PS president—to assume the Interior Ministry and become cabinet chief, with Victor Manuel Rebolledo as government spokesman. Six months was enough to show the failure of the formula. The two ministers, along with Education Minister Ernesto Schielfebein, were forced to leave the cabinet in an unexpected decision that has created uncertainty in the coalition.

Without previous consultations, the outgoing ministers learned of their replacement only a few hours before it happened in a move that was labeled by some analysts as Frei's not very subtle style.

The official parties, surprised at the events, said through their leaders that difficult times are ahead in their relations with the government and their rank-and-file. They agreed that relations with the government must be reviewed. The harshest reactions came from the PS

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which, after a general council meeting this weekend, released a political declaration saying it was annoyed and offended by Frei's decision. For the socialists, the situation "means the failure of a political policy that did not even resolve the governments's substantial political problems or ensure the necessary coherence among the different social and political factors that make up the coalition."

PS President Camilo Escalona recalled that the PS accepted the formula and the responsibility of the Interior Ministry after reiterated requests by President Frei. He added: "For this reason, it is unjust that the cost of this failure should be paid exclusively by the party."

The socialist leaders added that after the previous model was discarded, no clear mechanisms of agreement were sought.

Escalona warned that the procedure should not be repeated "because it violates terms that would enable the coalition to continue."

The ministerial crisis proved that efforts are being made to strengthen the presidential power and to put the parties in their place.

The obvious message is that for "the new times" of President Frei, parties will have much less influence than during the Patricio Aylwin administration.

Socialist Enrique Correa, ex-minister secretary general of government under Aylwin and one of the most consulted political analysts in the country, said the teams that make the basic decisions must come from different parties. He added: "This calms the coalition, gives it confidence, and strengthens the sense of belonging of the parties and their militants regarding the government."

This "change of direction" has broken the party's confidence in the executive branch and in the coalition which can have unexpected consequences in the preparation of joint electoral candidates for the 1996 municipal and the 1997 legislative elections.

Perhaps this is why PDC President Alejandro Foxley, a former finance minister—after supporting President Frei's decision—was quick to publicly express sympathy and solidarity with the socialists.

This political picture is part of a complex government agenda which is focussed on a salary increase request for members of the Armed Forces, a difficult labor situation in health and education areas, and delays in negotiations for a free trade agreement with the United States.

First Chilean Satellite To Be Launched in 1995

PY2309202094 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p C12

[Report by Hernan Cisternas Arellano in Valparaiso]

[Excerpts] The first Chilean-built communications satellite will be sent into orbit late next year. It will be called Cesar I. The first two letters identify Chile in international broadcasting—Charlie Eco—and the acronym SAR stands for Ham Radio Operators Satellite [Satelite para Aficionados a la Radiocomunicacion].

This information was supplied in Valparaiso by Eduardo Diaz Araya, the University of Chile Space Studies Center director. [passage omitted]

The satellite will incorporate designs by Chilean researchers and a couple of experimental devices, including a GPS [Global Position System] receiver for conducting orbitography [orbitografia] and a digital voice transponder—a first among satellites of this type in orbit. [passage omitted]

The project is headed by the Foundation for the Development of Satellites for Ham Radio Operators [Fundacion para el Desarrollo de Satelites de Aficionados de las Radiocomunicaciones] and Amsat CE (Amsat Chile) that is chaired by Ignacio Martinez. Researchers from the University of Chile, Federico Santa Maria Technical University, La Frontera University, and the Santiago University are participating in the project. The Catholic University of Valparaiso has also expressed interest. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Special Joint Command Reports Cali Cartel Activities

PA2709041694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Sep 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] We have a confidential report by the Special Joint Command, better known as the Cali search bloc, on the members and activities of the cartel and its ramifications in Valle del Cauca. It gives a list of 1,605 people who have ties with the drug traffickers, and this list includes the names of taxi drivers and well-known firms in the capital city of Valle Department.

The tentacles of the multinational drug corporation include 645 drug traffickers in Cali; 225 in Buga; 160 in Tulua; and 160 in Palmira; 125 in Roldanillo; 125 in Buenaventura; 100 in Cartago; and 65 in Sevilla. Those people have been fully identified, and the document discloses their full names.

According to the report, to which the "National Newscast" had access, the Cali cartel is laundering money through medicine and cosmetics distributors, poultry, taxi, and construction companies, soccer teams, cultural organizations, and renowned banks.

The Cali search bloc conducted during the first eight months of this year 175 important raids in which it seized 76.5 billion pesos and $9.5 billion, which have been sent to the Prosecutor General's Office.

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Prosecutor General Remarks on Report on Cali Cartel

PA2709041994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Sep 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The Cali cartel has been identified. Their names are known. The international media are pointing them out, and all of them are free. Why? We have asked Prosecutor General Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento about this matter. Our reporter, J.J. Pinilla, has the story:

[Begin recording] [Pinilla] We are with Prosecutor General Valdivieso and ask him, do you know of this report and of the 1,600 people who are allegedly linked to the Cali cartel?

[Valdivieso] The Prosecutor General's Office knows of a large number of reports, especially those prepared by the authorities in charge of our intelligence services. I believe the information confirms in some way what has already been said about the dimensions of this criminal organization.

[Pinilla] The question people are asking is if the Prosecutor General's Office has the intelligence reports disclosing the names of firms and people, why has it not proceeded to arrest them or to truly dismantle this organization?

[Valdivieso] This question is the one all Colombians are asking, and we would like to have effective results, success in the war against those organizations, and to be able to detect the members, especially the intellectual initiators, of those organizations. Unfortunately, it is not possible many times to advance in the right direction.

[Pinilla] Why?

[Valdivieso] I believe it is because we have limitations, investigative deficiencies, infiltration, a good amount of corruption as has been confirmed, and these findings are most unfortunate. [end recording]

Vice President on Need To Modernize Surrender Policy

PA2709023694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Sep 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] After receiving a memo from President Ernesto Samper that clearly establishes his responsibilities, Vice President Humberto de la Calle Lombana started organizing his agenda early this morning. Disclosing his agenda, however, the vice president could not sidestep the issue of concern to most Colombians: what to do with drug traffickers. Humberto de la Calle said Colombia must completely modernize its surrender policy:

[Begin De la Calle recording] The surrender policy cannot be a policy that condones impunity. We have rearranged the terms somewhat. It is untrue that the state's main mechanism involves the negotiation of sentences. No. The main objective of all legal action in Colombia must be aimed at incarcerating and penalizing all criminals. We must work to redesign the surrender policy in order for it to be exclusively an alternative mechanism, without losing the government's guiding principles; that is, cracking down on and penalizing criminal activity. [end recording]

According to the guidelines issued by President Ernesto Samper, as of now the vice president will be a coordinator of internal programs, such as administrative and territorial decentralization. The vice president will also be responsible for bringing the people and the state closer together.

Concerning foreign policy, the vice president will be responsible for the country's image regarding issues such as human rights, drug trafficking, and economic incentives.

Self-Defense Leader Demands Participation in New Government

PA2309214694 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Sep 94 p 9A

[Text] The so-called paramilitary and self-defense groups have demanded they be given the opportunity to participate in the new government. Fidel Castano, head of these organizations, has asked the government not to restrict the process to guerrillas. Castano, known as Rambo, has written a letter, datelined Uraba, to Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe. This is the text of the letter:

In view of the peace that the current government has offered the subversive groups and taking into consideration that the self-defense groups could represent an obstacle to the bilateral negotiations and consequently impede their successful completion, I wish to make the following known to you:

1. Currently, I represent a small bloc of self-defense groups from several regions of the country.
2. We have never intended to hamper the negotiations between the government and the guerrillas; just the opposite. We hope an honest agreement between the parties will soon be reached.
3. With due respect, I wish to tell you, Mr. Minister, that the self-defense groups are also part of and involved in the current armed conflict in the country, because we have been fighting insurgents for about 12 years. May I remind you that we were initially recruited and trained by the Armed Forces and then abandoned, rejected, and persecuted by government forces, in part because of some private armies in the pay of drug traffickers that described themselves as self-defense groups. Even so,

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those of us who remained aware of our counterinsurgency mission have always been on the side of the present government.
4. Please try to understand, Mr. Minister, that as a result of our situation and as long as we fail to see a sincere desire for peace on the part of the guerrillas, we will not leave unprotected the countless families residing in urban and rural areas who have supported the self-defense groups from the start, families the guerrillas know well. They will definitely suffer retaliation similar to what happened when we surrendered our arms and disbanded. One by one, former members and their families, informers, and followers of my self-defense group fell to the murderous bullets of assassins.
5. Because we are a real, latent force involved in this armed conflict, we should be given consideration in the peace negotiations that the government has offered the guerrillas. Therefore, the negotiations should be trilateral.
6. We wonder why negotiations have been offered to the far leftists only. They are the ones who always opposed the state, and we are the ones who fought the guerrillas and defended the state, but our concerns have never been heeded.
7. Conversely, the guerrillas have regarded us as their true and potential enemies ever since we organized. Let us keep in mind, Mr. Minister, that it is they who managed to portray publicly the self-defense groups as enemies of the state and succeeded in stripping us of our legal status as counterinsurgency fighters.
8. The fact that we are not involved in terrorist acts against the state like the guerrillas does not mean that our limited military power can be completely ignored in this conflict. It is simply that we will never pressure the state, because we support it. You, Mr. Minister, know that true military capability is required to deal with Colombian guerrilla groups. We demonstrated this by confronting and forcing the guerrillas out of their territory.

Samper Discusses Relations With Venezuela

PA2309234494 Caracas Venevision Television Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Interview with President Ernesto Samper by program host Carlos Fernandes at Narino Presidential Palace in Bogota; from the "24 Hours" program—live]

[Text] [Fernandes] This morning we have a very special and timely guest: President Ernesto Samper. We would like to thank him for his contribution in putting this very important program together. We will be addressing issues of mutual interest for the two nations. Mr. President, thank you for welcoming us to Narino Palace. There are several especially important issues that draw us together and with which we can identify.

We are airing this series of special programs in an effort to find out what people abroad feel about Venezuela's current situation, more specifically, about our country's economic and financial circumstances. How does Colombia feel about this and what opinions are taking shape as events unfold in Venezuela? Thank you again, sir.

[Samper] It is a pleasure to be on your program and be able to discuss issues that receive a great deal of attention in Colombia. We are interested in and concerned about everything that happens in Venezuela.

[Fernandes] I am sure you are. There is one issue in particular, the bilateral commercial relationship, that has been so intense recently. There have been several joint agreements on import duties and customs. Despite the difficulties, we tend to agree on how to manage this commercial relationship. But the changes implemented by President Rafael Caldera seem to have created certain problems with currency exchange limitations, price controls, and other such issues. How do you assess these changes?

[Samper] I believe, of course, that Venezuela is going through a difficult period of its economic adjustment, basically because of factors that are well known like the behavior of petroleum and so on.

We have an excellent bilateral relationship. Venezuela is one of Colombia's most important trading partners. I would say it is the third or fourth most important. This is why we are very interested in what goes on in Venezuela. We have closely followed President Caldera's measures. I believe these measures are the right way to rescue the country from the current situation, although some may find them difficult or perhaps even painful. We have been affected by some of the measures.

[Fernandes] I am sure you have.

[Samper] Nevertheless, we have tried to find ways to help postpone, defer, finance, certain payments owed to Colombian exporters. We have also been very concerned about Venezuelan investments here in Colombia. It is essential to keep our relationship as normal as possible. There is one example I like to cite, because it illustrates the story quite well. Up until about five years ago, there were three flights a week between Colombia and Venezuela, which is incredible. Now there are more than eight every day. This means there is an enormous flow of people, goods, and services. I think that this is the important part, because we have progressed nicely in our bilateral relationship.

[Fernandes] I understand that the Central Bank of the Republic of Colombia, the Central Bank of Venezuela, the Exchange Administration Board, JAC, which is responsible for organizing the logistics for the delivery of foreign exchange, have reached some significant agreements that will make it possible to correct some deficiencies in the future.

[Samper] Yes, it is a simple agreement of payments based on ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] regulations, which permit the payment of Colombian exports to Venezuela. We believe this is important,

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not because we are incapable of financing exporters—which in a way we are doing—so that they in turn can defer their financial commitments in Venezuela, but because this is one way to maintain credibility between the two countries. This is essential for maintaining the current flow of free trade.

During my tenure as development minister, I signed several collateral agreements that were very interesting; for example, Sidor is a monster compared with the Colombian iron and steel industry. Why should we compete with Sidor steel when we can produce steel products that Venezuela needs, purchasing Venezuelan steel? This made it possible for us to develop a process of integration in the iron and steel sector. I believe we should continue working with imagination and audacity.

[Fernandes] I imagine the Colombian Government will establish goals and will closely and permanently follow developments and the economic situation in Venezuela; for example, the implementation of foreign exchange controls is not easy, and it will not be easy to eliminate foreign exchange or price controls. In that regard, cooperation between the two countries is very important. As I said, deadlines for Colombia should be changed. Have you established new deadlines?

[Samper] It would not be fair on our part to give deadlines to a friendly country like Venezuela. On the contrary, we want to help, and we are sure that the measures adopted will be effective. It is important, however, to maintain these measures on a temporary basis, because controls sometimes have the effect of sleeping pills; in other words, they can be addictive.

[Fernandes] [Words indistinct] importance of controls.

[Samper] It is important that once the circumstances that made the controls necessary disappear, they should be eliminated, so that those who have been following events in Venezuela from abroad can have confidence in the trade and investment sectors.

[Fernandes] As you know, a few days ago President Rafael Caldera announced a macroeconomic stabilization plan. If we made a comparison between what was expected that Caldera would do and what he has just announced, what would be your conclusions?

[Samper] I believe he is going in the right direction...

[Fernandes, interrupting] Do you know the general aspects of the plan?

[Samper] Yes, I am aware of the main points. I believe it was inevitable, in view of the current circumstances in Venezuela. Of course, it cannot be compared with the economic situation in Colombia. The economic conditions in Colombia are different. Venezuela is highly dependent on oil, which makes it vulnerable to fluctuations in the price of oil. Under those circumstances, it has an economy that is almost state-controlled, because most of its income comes from the state. Our problems are just the opposite. Our economy is so diversified that we find it difficult to deal immediately with the effect of prices; for example, the increase in prices of some products such as coffee. We have very complex problems with coffee prices because each dollar we receive from coffee sales affects 2 million people who buy coffee, and this has an inflationary effect. As I said, I believe President Caldera's economic reforms were inevitable, and I believe he is going in the right direction.

[Fernandes] If you compared the economic reforms implemented in 1989 with the plan presented by the Rafael Caldera's government would you find many coincidences?

[Samper] The plan we implemented here or...

[Fernandes, interrupting] No, the plan initiated by President Perez compared to the plan presented by President Caldera.

[Samper] We are probably talking about two different eras, and maybe that is why the plans may seem different. I believe what Venezuela is doing right now is improving its image abroad. It is trying, first of all, to put the house in order...

[Fernandes, interrupting] It has been in disorder lately.

[Samper] In 1962, we experienced a similar situation, particularly in the financial sector. We had a very serious crisis, and we had to adopt very drastic measures. Eventually, the economic situation forced us to make some political reforms, particularly constitutional reforms. We convoked a Constituent Assembly, which enabled us to make quick decisions. In general, all those changes must be synchronized and harmonized.

[Fernandes] That it the most important thing about this. There are other common problems and many circumstances that bring our countries together one way or another, even though there are problems and differences of opinion. What do you believe are the more significant problem areas?

[Samper] One area affecting the two countries is the economy in the border region. We cannot maintain the traditional border concept according to which each side waits for the other to run into trouble and then benefits from its distress. Along with operating a free market system, economic openness, seeking common import tariffs, and reducing other fees, there is a need to draft a new border concept.

I remember when the governorship in Cucuta, which is on the border, caught fire. I remember this because the firefighters who finally put out the fire were from San Cristobal. I remember this story because it shows us that people live in the same situation. How can you tell the difference between a Venezuelan living in San Cristobal and a Colombia in Cucuta, or a Venezuelan from Maracaibo and a Colombian from Guajira? They live in the same circumstances. We must create a concept of

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dual nationality that allows the free movement of goods, persons, and money. This could prevent other minor problems, which are a headache all the same, such as auto theft.

[Fernandes] Auto theft is becoming a tremendous problem.

[Samper] We are passing a law in Congress to prevent this.

[Fernandes] Do you think there has been progress in that area? There are even proposals from regional sectors in Norte de Santander, Tachira, Zulia State, and in Guajira.

[Samper] Why, of course, and there have been very positive proposals, such as...

[Fernandes, interrupting] There is, in fact, a proposal for the possible... [pauses] a proposal to create some sort of compensation chamber to prevent the kind of problems created by the currency exchange controls in Venezuela, for example.

[Samper] Free trade itself would allow the normal exchange of currencies. The (?Urena) sugar mill is currently working with Colombian funds, but it could use sugar produced in Zulia, which is near the Colombian border. So you see we must find new and more original forms of integration. I know it is possible if we accept the fact that we do not live in two different environments but in one common environment.

[Fernandes] There are other important issues regarding this common relationship. A moment ago you mentioned auto theft. Venezuela and Colombia have disagreed on this issue, but there has also been progress. There are security problems. There are recurring problems of kidnappings along the border; the guerrillas, narcoguerrillas, and so on. How are the two countries working on this? How is your administration, President Samper, working with the Caldera administration.

[Samper] The relationship between my administration and the Caldera administration is excellent. We have met two or three times already in my short term. Allow me to say that relations between the previous government of President Cesar Gaviria and President Caldera were also very good, and before that, with President Carlos Andres Perez. The path to what I would call a new era of understanding between the two countries was opened then.

Regarding border issues, we now understand the basic issue, which is that neither country should think the other is trying to pull a fast one; to dodge responsibility. We are as interested in fighting the guerrilla movement and drug trafficking as Venezuela is. Based on that common interest, we are working on joint methods of repressing these activities along the border and within our own territory; against activities such as kidnaping and what we call war taxes. I believe the policies I am pursuing in the areas of drug trafficking, peace agreements with rebel groups, and so on are drafted in that same direction.

[Fernandes] Undoubtedly. Particularly when a decision on drug trafficking and guerrilla activity has a significant effect on Venezuela, especially along the border.

[Samper] We must all understand that drug trafficking is an international issue. It is not Colombia's exclusive responsibility. I am afraid to say that no country in the world, particularly a country like ours, is exempt from drug trafficking. That is why the foundation of my drug trafficking policy calls not only for Colombia to accept its responsibility and act accordingly but demands that consumer nations accept their responsibility as well. That is where the demand lies. If there were no demand for drugs, drug trafficking would not exist.

[Fernandes] How is Venezuela doing on this issue?

[Samper] Fine. We have signed agreements calling for joint action against drug trafficking, and we proposed signing an agreement to fight money laundering, which was unanimously accepted at the recent Rio Group summit meeting. Revenues from drug trafficking are what nourish the system, turning it into a diabolical chain.

[Fernandes] Sure.

[Samper] We managed to get the countries to approve this because money laundering is an international crime that begins in one place, moves to another, and ends up in Colombia, Venezuela, or any other country.

[Fernandes] Of course. You mentioned the Rio meeting. At that meeting, Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera also presented a proposal. He proposed the creation of some sort of international front against corruption. Money laundering is a form of corruption. Those who dipped their hands into our countries' tills and left, who raided our national treasuries, and who stole and absconded with the money of bank depositors are also corrupt.

[Samper] That is correct. Latin America is very concerned about corruption. I think we have realized that corruption steals from us in the evening what we have earned during the day.

[Fernandes] Yes, of course.

[Samper] As President Caldera proposed, we must establish common strategies that could, or rather must be not only strict—that is, pursue outlaws who looted state treasuries—but also preventive. There is increasingly more talk in the United States about an issue that we could also champion: good government. How can we ensure good operation of our states, our governments?

[Fernandes] You mentioned the U.S. Government and governments of other world developed countries. The individuals who stole money from our countries have

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sought refuge in those countries. A considerable number of them have sought refuge in the United States, the leader of Western democracy, but that country does not always offer the necessary cooperation. The reciprocity principle is not always applied in these cases.

[Samper] I agree. That is absolutely true, and it is why we must demand a two-way relationship. Often one party blames another, and vice versa.

[Fernandes] Of course. I mentioned a case related to the bilateral relationship, and I want to go back to discussing Venezuelan-Colombian ties. What about the auto thefts that have been so controversial in the two countries?

[Samper] Yes, for example...[pauses] but for me those are noisy incidents that we should not turn into disputes. I think that one...

[Fernandes, interrupting] They are perhaps a passionate display more than anything else.

[Samper] Yes, they are border area outbursts, but notice how much we have advanced. Some people notice only the small things and fail to notice the work we have done on 10 or 12 issues within our integration commissions. We settled border problems in Los Rios; we delimited land borders; and there are spectacular Venezuelan investments in Colombia, although there are many more Colombian investments in Venezuela.

[Fernandes] Perhaps the vehicle theft problem is far less important than the hydrographic basins. There has been progress and discussion in this regard.

[Samper] We have advanced on the issues of hydrographic basins and land borders. We have made great progress on the issues of economic integration, tariff standardization, on the possibility of establishing special zones at the border. We will advance in the issues of marine delimitation. I think that to the degree we realize that we share the same reality, we will be able to reach these agreements. Take NAFTA, for example. What is behind this agreement between Mexico and the United States? A border treaty.

[Fernandes] Sure.

[Samper] Countries that confronted each other for a long time, that lived as two enemy dogs, found in a border treaty—which is, in essence, what NAFTA is—the possibility of coexisting in the future. I aspire to achieve this with Venezuela.

[Fernandes] The perception in my country is that this great bilateral agreement is simply irreversible, despite numerous problems in the national economic, labor, and political sectors. That is why I insist that we share a number of common problems despite any differences that might arise. The bilateral relationship, however, is irreversible.

[Samper] It is irreversible because we share the same blood. If we look back 150 years, we could talk about our heroes as if they had been friends. That unites us, it creates links. There are other noisy incidents. There are too many Venezuelans in Colombia.

[Fernandes] Of course.

[Samper] But they are also happy, and this also useful for Venezuela. [chuckles]

[Fernandes] Perhaps the issue that deepens contradictions or that defines positions is the one having to do with the delimitation of marine and submarine waters. I confess that at times many Venezuelans—and I imagine many Colombians as well—are worn out, because there is a rhetorical exercise by the two parties, and there are extreme positions in each country as well. Do you think we could find solutions once and for all during your administration—and based on your ties with President Caldera—to ensure that we will not continue discussing these problems administration after administration, year after year?

[Samper] First, I think the best path is the one we have chosen: dialogue.

[Fernandes] Sure.

[Samper] A former Colombian president said people relate to each other in two ways: by avoiding each other or by engaging in dialogue. [laughter] As far as I am concerned—and I think President Caldera totally agrees—we should engage in a dialogue.

[Fernandes] Undoubtedly.

[Samper] Some 15 years ago, bilateral relations consisted of two or three topics, no more. Today we have an infinite number of topics in our bilateral relations, including the Andean Group, which is the scenario in which Colombia and Venezuela find themselves. I would say 80 percent of Andean Group trade is between Colombia and Venezuela.

[Fernandes] President Samper, I would like us to discuss another topic. By the time this interview is broadcast in Venezuela, the United States may have invaded Haiti. You touched on this topic during your visit to the United States. Former President Cesar Gaviria also mentioned it when he took office as OAS secretary general. I would like to know Colombia's viewpoint regarding this invasion of Haiti. Perhaps by this time the United States and a group of allied countries will have invaded Haiti. In any event, what is Colombia's position?

[Samper] Our position is quite similar to that expressed in Rio. We defend the principle of nonintervention. We believe this is a Latin American principle that must be preserved so there are no forceful solutions in this type of conflict. Also, we disagree with the government of Mr. Cedras, who is a dictator undeserving of our support. In the Rio Declaration, which will be in effect until a forceful solution is adopted, we asked that a political solution be found. Any political solution to a conflict of this type is preferable to any forceful solution.

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[Fernandes] Does this mean that Jean-Bertrand Aristide will return as president of Haiti?

[Samper] Undoubtedly. I think the fundamental objective—and there is total agreement on this with the governments that are committed to a military solution—is to preserve the concept of respect for democracy headed by President Aristide.

[Fernandes] Does that mean that at a given moment, if the invasion of Haiti has occurred, the Colombian Government and other Latin American governments—probably the Venezuelan Government—will join in a common cause, establish a criteria, and make their stand as they did in the Rio meeting?

[Samper] In Colombia's case, obviously we will assess the situation stemming from the military solution, if that is the case. I am still optimistic there will be a political solution. We have committed ourselves to participate in the reestablishment of democracy in Haiti. That is the phase in which one can think of rebuilding democracy in Haiti. It is not only a case of reinstating Aristide. All Latin American governments must offer him their support so democracy can prevail, so Aristide can conclude his term, and so the final outcome of this whole episode will be that all Haitians will have better standards of living than in previous years.

[Fernandes] Let us touch on another important topic: relations between Colombia and the United States. They have been quite erratic, with ups and downs, especially concerning the extremely sensitive topic of narcotrafficking. How do relations presently stand between the administration of President Clinton and your administration, President Samper?

[Samper] They are normal. We have presented it in very simple terms. We want to have friendly relations with the United States, as we have always maintained them generally, but on the basis that Colombia's dignity be respected. We have demanded respect for Colombia's right to solve its own problems, without conditions or demands. This, of course, includes the struggle against narcotrafficking. We are struggling against narcotrafficking out of a deep conviction about the great harm narcotrafficking is causing the world and the harm it has caused and is causing Colombians. We have paid tremendously high costs because of narcotrafficking. We have a great responsibility before the world to eliminate this plight, which is causing serious harm to youths and increasing crime.

[Fernandes] Do you think the United States will continue exerting pressure, which hurts the dignity of the Colombian people and of your government?

[Samper] There are attempts which I would say have not originated in the White House. There are attempts in the U.S. Congress to set conditions, to blame Colombia for the problem. I am firmly determined not to allow Colombia to become the Vietnam of the struggle against drug trafficking.

[Fernandes] Of course not.

[Samper] I will not allow other countries to come here to wage the war they have not been able to win within their own boundaries. I am demanding that consumer countries assume their responsibility to reduce demand, control money laundering, and prevent the shipment of precursor chemicals. In sum, each country should assume its responsibility.

[Fernandes] What has the Clinton administration said?

[Samper] I believe the Clinton administration has made a significant turn in the sense of admitting that the drug consumption problem is not merely a police problem but a public health problem. There is a new approach to the problem, which I believe is positive. We have worked together to formulate some police and intelligence operations against the drug cartels in general, and against the Cali Cartel in particular, as we are both committed to this struggle.

We have implemented a policy in Colombia by which drug traffickers can surrender to justice. We want those who want to surrender to be able to do so peacefully. We respect their right to a fair trial and to be safe in jail. We will modify this law to increase the penalties, but the policy remains in effect.

[Fernandes] Would you say the U.S. Congress has been more aggressive and belligerent?

[Samper] As long as the drug problem is seen as a political issue in the elections, we will be caught in the middle...

[Fernandes, interrupting] We feel the same way in Venezuela about our gasoline, which is sold and distributed on the U.S. east coast. According to reports, there is a group of U.S. congressmen who apparently represent some economic interests linked to the U.S. oil companies. These congressmen are severely hurting Venezuelan interests.

[Samper] We fail to realize that the United States is more complex than the simplified picture we have. There are many interests involved which have also affected us. For example, taxes have been imposed on our roses. We are the main exporters of roses to the United States, but these taxes are threatening to close the market to us. This means 50,000 jobs in Colombia.

[Fernandes] Does this reduce the possibility of advancing and reaching integration agreements with Mexico and the United States? I am referring to problems affecting Colombia and Venezuela in their bilateral relations with the United States.

[Samper] No, because I understand that first of all, free trade agreements allow the free circulation of products among the countries which have signed the agreement. It would be unacceptable if we signed a free trade agreement that would be subject to political conditions by either Venezuela or Colombia, or by the United States,

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Mexico, or Canada. In fact, free trade means there should be no customs or political barriers to our products.

[Fernandes] How is the group formed by Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela advancing toward integration?

[Samper] I believe it is going well. I find this relationship very interesting, because we can describe it as a Latin American triangle over the Caribbean...

[Fernandes, interrupting] I am sorry to interrupt, but I must say this: Sometimes in Venezuela we feel there are many fears, which are of course justified by the economic and financial problems we are facing within our current situation. Sometimes we fear that Colombia or Mexico will not see us as they did before, that they may not be aware of the situation we are experiencing. In sum, it will not be easy for us to overcome this crisis.

[Samper] I would not adopt such a commiserative position. It seems to me that Venezuela is a very big country with many resources and possibilities.

[Fernandes] Yet sometimes we feel, based of course on media reports, information, and our contacts, that many of our friends in Latin America, including Colombia and Mexico, see the situation in Venezuela as falling, falling, falling and we are unable to get up.

[Samper] No, I think....[pauses] You have lived in a situation of relative affluence for many years. We are a country of ups and downs, and that is why we are accustomed to....

[Fernandes, interrupting] But the wealth received was not distributed equitably.

[Samper] Yes. One of the things Venezuela could do, as other countries have done, would be to promote more business owners, because the day the people have something to lose is the day they are more supportive of their country. It is very difficult to ask people who have nothing to lose—because they own nothing—to die in the defense of something that they all know belongs to a minority.

[Fernandes] Of course, but what we must also consider is that it is very difficult to abruptly break away from what has been, well, our mainstay and our dependency on a strictly petroleum-based economy. It is not easy to change from one day to the other.

[Samper] Venezuela's great difficulty has been the use of its oil revenues.

[Fernandes] Right.

[Samper] I believe, however, that there are ways to utilize the oil revenues in a productive, permanent manner. The development of microbusinesses is one example. Colombia is a country of microbusinesses. We have 1.2 million microbusinessmen. That is the basis of our economic democracy. Of course, microbusinesses are more difficult to manage than 20 businesses, but it is a productive way of distributing income.

[Fernandes] Also, in reference to breaking away from our oil dependency —this is just a comment I want to add—we have to acknowledge that Venezuela currently has the world largest reserves in heavy and extra heavy crude. Venezuela's problem is one of management and administration. Venezuela also has 12 percent of the world's auriferous reserves. Furthermore, despite the fact that most of its basic firms are bankrupt, they still have a tremendous infrastructure that could be easily renewed. That is why I insist that the problem is not easy to understand.

[Samper] Yes, but not impossible. Coffee was 60 percent of our exports 40 years ago, and it is 18 percent of our exports today. We have diversified and are producing coal and nickel. What is most important, however, is that the income we obtain from such activities be distributed in a more balanced manner. To say it in another way, the income permeates our system more. Producers and consumers are waiting for it to activate the economy. I believe this can be achieved in Venezuela, too. It seems to me that a program can be developed to invest the income in this manner. I believe past governments, as well as the current one, have ideas about this.

[Fernandes] Of course.

In the last part of this dialogue, President Samper, I would like us to talk about the violence in your country, the problem of the guerrillas, the peace initiatives that your government is adopting, and also the peace initiatives of former President Cesar Gaviria. In this dialogue, we have touched on one topic, which one way or another, links both countries, and is the topic of violence and guerrillas. Mr. President, in the specific case of Colombia, how are you dealing with the situation? What are the peace initiatives? Is it possible to reach a point of convergence that will allow both sides to reach an agreement?

[Samper] No Colombian president has ever been elected president who did not wanted to secure peace. I am no exception, not only because I am committed to peace, but because I have been a victim of violence. About five years ago, I was the victim of an attack and was hit by 11 bullets. I still carry four bullets as a decoration, as Gabriel Garcia Marquez says. That close contact with violence made me deeply committed to pursue peace in my country. How do I envision peace in spite of the guerrillas? First, I am not going to wait for negotiations to resolve an issue that I believe is the responsibility of every government of every state. I have proposed and implemented a profound and very progressive human rights policy. Colombia is deeply committed to the struggle against human rights violations. Second, I have proposed a social vanguard program. I am convinced that the only way our countries can maintain their democratic legitimacy is through social investment. It is proper to open up our economies. Nobody is opposed to

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that, but everyone should feel a part of it in economic terms. What occurs in some countries is what I call the Chiapas syndrome. This means that by not managing the social costs of economic freedom and turning it into a game of winners and losers, in which 80 percent of the people do not benefit from the profits that are enjoyed by the minority, Latin America is being led toward inevitable political conflicts.

[Fernandes] That precisely—allow me to interrupt—is where we have felt it to some extent. Spokespersons for President Caldera have said that is where the social emphasis is, which is how they want to effect an open market, giving it flexibility, stressing privatization, and other alternatives and strategies. I will never forget the social impact.

[Samper] That is right; otherwise, it is senseless. One must manage an economy so that it will work for the people; otherwise, it is senseless to conduct a process to accumulate profits.

[Fernandes] When you tell the guerrillas this, what is their response? Are they incredulous?

[Samper] No, I think it touches on three issues: human rights, social investment, and the reactivation of the agriculture-livestock sector, where the war is currently under way in this country. I am going to do those three things, whether or not the guerrillas demand them. I am convinced it can be achieved in this country. I am willing to sit down with the guerrillas to negotiate a permanent peace agreement, on the basis that it will truly be a permanent agreement. What I will not do is embark on another process of disrupted dialogues, which would be another frustration for the Colombian people.

[Fernandes] Each region has its own characteristics. There are those areas that have more violence than others. How would you handle this?

[Samper] I think each guerrilla group, each bloc has its own regional characteristics. If some of them want to demobilize, it will be reflected in such an agreement, but deep down what identifies them is basically the same; that is, whether they want to demobilize or not.

[Fernandes] Yes.

[Samper] Whoever wants to leave the group will find open doors in my government.

[Fernandes] What about the connection that is said to exist between guerrillas and narcotraffickers. Does that still exist?

[Samper] Look, narcotrafficking is responsible for all forms of violence in Colombia. Narcotrafficking is not only related—it is more commercial than ideological—with some sectors of the guerrillas in some parts of the country. I think there are not so many links as some people seem to think, but it also finances rightist paramilitary groups. It also finances common crimes, corruption. It is the driving force behind many of the things that are happening in this country. That is why I am committed to fighting narcotrafficking.

[Fernandes] If you realize disarmament, so to speak, drug trafficking will also be affected. Any decision to disarm many of the Colombian men who are fighting right now will have repercussions and a decided effect on drug trafficking.

[Samper] Yes, but this process is not so romantic as it was during the sixties when guerrillas would come down from Sierra Maestra chanting revolutionary slogans. No, this is a well-timed operation to undo the corruption fostered by drug trafficking, while at the same time, to improve social conditions for militiamen who live in cities and to seek ways to reinstate the guerrillas. It is an enormous task.

[Fernandes] Yes, unquestionably. What does the Colombian military sector think? What does the political sector, Congress, think?

[Samper] I am absolutely convinced of the compliance with civilian rule [civilidad] and the loyalty of the Armed Forces, of which I am commander. They have been affecting...

[Fernandes, interrupting] Do they share your idea of talking with and disarming the guerrillas?

[Samper] Totally. They believe in the plans for peace and human rights in which they, also, are involved. It is not a matter of lowering our guard. We will maintain the state's military presence in the war zones, and we hope this presence will persuade the guerrillas to accept certain conditions—not surrender of course, but agreement—that will allow most Colombians to achieve their dream, which is to live in peace.

[Fernandes] That is right. What about the political sector such as the legislature and other organizations?

[Samper] I have their support also. I would say that at present, 80 percent of Congress supports my position, not only because my party represents the majority in the Senate and the House, but because the opposition party is cooperating with the government. Colombia has a long-standing tradition—perhaps because of this violence—whereby we compete in elections but later govern together, obviously following each president's methodology. I have mine.

[Fernandes, laughing] Of course, each person has his own characteristics and traits. Mr. President, we are about to conclude. I would like to thank you again for participating in this dialogue which, I am sure, will be noted with a great deal of interest and attention in Venezuela.

It is now time to sum up the events, the initial part of our conversation and the second part, which was devoted to Colombia's domestic problems and international issues. In response to Venezuela's current situation, to bilateral ties, what are your conclusions?

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[Samper] I believe that obviously Venezuela is experiencing a difficult time, but I am convinced, and not only am I convinced but I told President Caldera, that the Colombian Government is willing to do whatever is necessary to help Venezuela succeed, as Venezuela has helped us in the past. Second, I believe we should continue working on bilateral relations based on a concept of universality; in other words, we should not reduce bilateral relations to one problem, one episode, one set of charges or whatever. Instead, we should view bilateral relations from the viewpoint of integration because, among other things, psychologically we will always find that we gain more from working on good bilateral relations than from focusing on issues that can eventually separate us.

I will have an opportunity to visit Venezuela in October as the guest of President Caldera. Technical teams from the two countries are working on a joint document. I admire Caracas, I believe it is the capital of the Caribbean, it is our true Caribbean city, and I say our [words indistinct] for Latin Americans is Caracas, and I believe we will continue to work, dream and share.

[Fernandes] President Ernesto Samper, thank you very much for being here. We may have an opportunity to resume this dialogue in the future, perhaps in Caracas or right here in Bogota. I wish you well in all your endeavors and contacts. I hope your efforts will succeed, and that the benefits for our nations will increase.

[Samper] Thank you very much.

Paraguay

'Significant' Changes in Armed Forces Cadres

PY2609215894 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 25 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] Unexpected and significant transfers and promotions were reported yesterday among Armed Forces cadres. They include the Navy commander, Air Force commander, chief of general staff, 2d Army Corps commander, 3d Army Corps commander, Navy chief of staff, and War Fleet commander.

Rear Admiral Jose Ramon Ocampos Alfaro was promoted to Navy chief of staff, replacing Rear Admiral Carlos Guillermo Lopez Moreira, who was promoted to acting Navy commander.

Navy Captain DEM [General Staff School graduate] Manuel Jesus Alejandro Roig Benitez was appointed acting War Fleet commander, replacing Rear Admiral Jose Ramon Ocampos Alfaro, the new Navy chief of staff.

Colonel DEM Mario Vidal Galdona Candia will be acting 3d Army Corps chief of staff, replacing Brigadier General Adalberto Fleitas Martinez. Colonel DEM Cirilo Ramon Velazquez Steger will be acting 2d Army Corps chief of staff, replacing Brigadier General Jose Felix Pavon Gonzalez.

Colonel DEM Luis Alcibiades Ferreira Garbini was appointed acting 3d Infantry Division commander, replacing Brigadier General Federico Magno Candia Flores. Colonel DEM Odalio Palacios Oviedo will be acting 4th Infantry Division commander, replacing Brigadier General Juan Simon Paredes Bareiro.

Colonel DEM Cesar Concepcion Ferreira Sanchez will be acting 3d Cavalry Division commander, replacing Brigadier General Mario Barreto Aguero. Colonel DEM Calixto Moral Ortega will replace Colonel Odalio Palacios Oviedo as commander of the Military Lyceum No. 2 "Colonel Juan Francisco Lopez."

Navy Captain DEM Gregorio Delfin Recalde Samudio will be installed as Marines commander, replacing Navy Captain DEM Manuel Jesus Alejandro Roig Benitez. Colonel DEM Martin Manuel Antonio Yegros Macias will be the new Armed Forces Agriculture and Livestock Service director, replacing Colonel DEM Cesar Concepcion Ferreira Sanchez.

The main changes in the Armed Forces cadres include acting Navy commander Rear Admiral Carlos Guillermo Lopez Moreira, who replaces Vice Admiral Flavio Abadie Gaona; acting Air Force Commander Brigadier General Cesar Cramer Espinola, who replaces Division General Jose Cespedes Zarza; Brigadier General Roosevelt Benitez Molinas, the acting chief of general staff, who replaces Division General Pedro Concepcion Ocampos; Brigadier General Mario Barreto Aguayo, the 1st Army Corps chief of staff, who replaces Brigadier General Roosevelt Benitez Molinas; Brigadier General Federico Candia Flores, the acting 2d Army Corps commander, who replaces Division General Iran Centurion Espinola; and Brigadier General Juan Simon Paredes Bareiro, the acting 3d Army Corps commander, who replaces Division General Evelio Fabio Benitez Santacruz.

Antidrug, Antisubversive Operations With Argentina Planned

PY2309193394 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Sep 94 p 108

[Text] Commander General Mario Esteban Geneyro, deputy director of the Argentine Border Police, and Commissioner General Leoduvio Zotelo, deputy chief of the National Police, on 20 September signed a letter of intent in which the two institutions commit themselves to a joint and effective task of fighting, among other things, the scourges of drug trafficking and terrorism. The letter of intent was signed at the headquarters of the National Police.

Among other topics, the letter of intent calls for the study of an agreement of cooperation between the National

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Police and the Argentine Border Guard that is to be signed by Paraguay and Argentina.

The document also calls for an evaluation of the Local Border Transit System that is to be implemented between Paraguay and Argentina "in order to favor the American integration that is supported by the governments of the two nations and that was ratified by the two presidents, thus allowing the participation of the National Police of Paraguay as an institution."

The third point of the letter of intent deals with the naming of the liaison officers of the two institutions "so there can be a fluid and permanent form of communication."

Finally, the document expresses support for exchanges at the training level between the two institutions that will include officers and non-commissioned officers. The two institutions "will mutually place their training systems at each other's disposal in order to achieve the proposed supreme goal; thus, the fight against drug trafficking and crimes of lese-majeste such as terrorism will be optimized."

Commander Orlando De Negri, chief of the Formosa Group of the Border Guard, and Commander Jose Antonio Caruso, chief of Squadron 16, Clorinda, also participated in the ceremony.

President Juan Carlos Wasmosy on 20 September stated that there must also be integration within the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] to fight corruption and crime. He pointed out that cooperation is necessary between Mercosur members in order to provide a greater security for the inhabitants of the four nations. Wasmosy made these remarks when Geneyro and National Police Commander Mario Agustin Saprisa Nunez visited him in his office.

Geneyro answered that "this is the goal."

"We must be more efficient and serve the people. That is our intention," he said.

When it was mentioned that the Paraguayans do not have very good remembrances of the Argentine border guards, Geneyro said: "That is surely so because we have to learn, and we intend to mature. The border guards are zealous men and therefore they make mistakes. But, we aspire to improve and not to repeat errors," he concluded.

Peru

Half of 1995 Budget Earmarked for Social Services

PY2609180894 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p A1

[Text] In what was considered to be an unprecedented event, on 8 September, Economy and Finance Minister Jorge Camet Dickman explained that the government has budgeted 10.120 billion soles for social services in 1995 and that this amount represents nearly half of the 1995 national budget.

This sum—which has been disclosed seven months before the general elections—includes funds for social programs totaling 3.500 billion soles as well as the budgets for the ministries of health, education, labor, and administration of justice.

The 1995 national budget, which amounts to 21.840 billion soles, will be funded with resources from the Treasury, domestic and foreign debt, inflow of capital into the country, and transfers, all of which are included in the Bills on Financial Balance and Foreign Indebtedness.

It is estimated that the GDP will grow by approximately 6 percent, that the annual inflation rate will stand at 9.2 percent, and that the rate of exchange between the dollar and the sol will average 2.51. According to Camet, net international reserves are expected to increase by $1 billion, which will enable the present administration to accumulate over $6 billion in reserves by the time it steps down.

Camet explained to members of the Budget Committee that another salient aspect of the 1995 budget is that the servicing of the external debt will be reduced by 44 percent following negotiations with Peru's creditors.

In order to make himself clear, Camet stated that Peru's reincorporation into the international financial system has not yet been totally achieved, since there are some aspects pending, like a negotiated settlement with creditor banks.

He therefore urged members of the committee investigating the purchase of the vessels Mantaro and Pachitea to finish this probe and draw their conclusions with regard to the debt Peru incurred with the Chemical Bank and American Express on account of the purchase of these vessels.

The finance minister did not fail to mention the fact that some countries have decided to cancel Peru's debt, like the United Kingdom, which on 8 September announced that Peru's $7.5-million debt was forgiven. A total of $300 million of Peru's foreign debt has been canceled thus far.

Perez de Cuellar on Presidential Ambitions

MM2609153594 Madrid ABC in Spanish 23 Sep 94 p 40

[Interview with presidential candidate Javier Perez de Cuellar by Cesar Hildebrandt in Lima; date not given]

[Text] Lima—A couple of hours of conversation with Javier Perez de Cuellar, former UN secretary general and brand new candidate for the Peruvian presidency, are sufficient to realize that what is at stake next April is something more than an election day. What Peru will decide on that day is whether to extend by five more years the system of covert but effective dictatorship

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which began 5 April 1992, or whether to opt for the country's full democratization and an economic model which, without abandoning the liberal bent imposed by Fujimori's government, will accept social compassion as one of its main elements.

This is the dialogue which the man who headed the United Nations for a decade, the Peruvian with the greatest international prestige, held with ABC at his home in the Lima district of San Isidro. The only topic that Perez de Cuellar politely shuns is the Fujimori-Higuchi couple's scandalous quarrels. "My aim is to maintain the standard of the debate and not to stoop to comments on such distressing matters," he stated.

[Hildebrandt] Many people wonder why a man who has had all honors has decided to accept so difficult a candidacy at such a dramatic moment. Why are you undertaking this hazardous venture?

[Perez De Cuellar] Because I am convinced of how bad it would be for Peru for this regime to continue, and because I am convinced that I can be the element around which the opposition can bar its way to reelection. All this has led me at this time in my life and with the record which you have so generously described to accept this commitment. I feel a duty to my country and am therefore prepared to accept this stormy voyage.

[Hildebrandt] This is also a campaign which, because of the characteristics of some of its participants, could be really dirty. There is even talk of a gigantic fraud, the machinery for which has already been set in motion.

[Perez De Cuellar] I hope that the campaign, as I have told you, will not stoop to any dirtiness, but the truth is that the country in general has no confidence in the electoral process' honesty.

[Hildebrandt] Are you specifically afraid of fraud?

[Perez De Cuellar] I believe that recent history shows that this government would not hesitate to use forbidden weapons in order to achieve its aims. I hope that I am mistaken. I would like nothing better than to be mistaken.

[Hildebrandt] What do you intend to do in view of that possibility?

[Perez De Cuellar] To point out that danger and that unscrupulousness, as I am doing in this interview, and also to call on international public opinion to help create an atmosphere in which manipulation and fraud will not be as easily feasible as they are now.

[Hildebrandt] Will the OCA [expansion unknown] have to play an important role in this connection?

[Perez De Cuellar] This is so. The OCA will have to be the real guarantor of this process.

[Hildebrandt] Would victory for Fujimori mean the institutionalization of dictatorship in Peru?

[Perez De Cuellar] It would mean the possible perpetuation of authoritarianism. Let us not forget that that authoritarianism not only stems from the president's personality but has been institutionalized by the new Constitution. This Constitution's model is excessively presidential, and has reduced the regions' prerogatives to a minimum. The country's interior feels more than anybody else the oppressive weight of that autocratic centralism.

[Hildebrandt] Do you not believe, however, that the great majority of Peruvians regard the authoritarianism as a necessary option?

[Perez De Cuellar] Long-standing, never resolved problems certainly create the illusion of authoritarianism as a solution, but the truth is that one of Peru's long-standing problems is precisely the constant recourse to that somewhat perverse solution, namely authoritarianism.

[Hildebrandt] What would you tell the Peruvians in order to make them fully identify with your championing of respect for the law?

[Perez De Cuellar] I would tell them to look around them and tell me honestly whether the current authoritarianism has improved the situation of the 12 million Peruvians struggling in poverty and extreme poverty. That is something that pains me and makes me feel ashamed. I would ask them: "Do you have better education or greater medical care, employment, and prospects of finding a home?" And you know, Cesar, what the answer would be.

[Hildebrandt] Yet this government has defeated terrorism and hyperinflation.

[Perez De Cuellar] That is so, although in the case of terrorism I am not certain that we have fought the last battle. But you are right: The relative pacification and the controlling of inflation are two indisputable merits of this regime. It would be petty to deny it, and I do not intend to sully this campaign with pettiness.

[Hildebrandt] I recall that it was you who introduced Fujimori to the international credit institutions.

[Perez De Cuellar] That is so. It fell to me to help Peru by introducing its president elect to the IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the U.S. private banks. I believe that to some extent we contributed to the implementation of a correct policy, which is the one which has led to this success, but what I wish to tell you is that what Peru needs with dramatic urgency is to turn those macroeconomic figures into real relief for the needy classes.

[Hildebrandt] If you attained the presidency, would you change the current economic policy?

[Perez De Cuellar] As you will understand, I would not change the foundations of a policy which, from my modest position, I helped to formulate, but my disagreements with the current regime arose when I realized that

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everything that the UN experts advised to alleviate the situation of the poorest was thrown overboard. In that respect I would make a radical change.

[Hildebrandt] In 1990 Vargas Llosa's international prestige did not help too much. Are you not afraid of being the Vargas Llosa of 1995?

[Perez De Cuellar] It is a matter of different forms of prestige. The prestige which I have does not belong, perhaps unfortunately, to literature.

[Hildebrandt] Do you deem an understanding with the Armed Forces to be easy?

[Perez De Cuellar] The Armed Forces have a role and a responsibility. I hope for a complete understanding with them.

[Hildebrandt] Do you believe that the problem of violence has been finally surmounted?

[Perez De Cuellar] I do not believe so. As long as the conditions of extreme inequality persist, there will be conditions for the preaching of the men of violence, and we will live under that threat.

[Hildebrandt] For obvious reasons, and irrespective of private or public investments, relations between Spain and Peru have not exactly been excellent recently. Would that change substantially under you?

[Perez De Cuellar] I have not the slightest doubt. The relationship with Spain is a natural, family relationship. With Spain, our countries passed from a filial to a fraternal relationship. Spain should be the great bridge between Spanish America and the European Community. This clearly depends on strengthening the bilateral relationship: My government, if favored by the people's vote, would attach priority importance to the relationship with Spain.

[Hildebrandt] You are 74, and the election campaign will be long and tough. Are you in good health?

[Perez De Cuellar] Well, I believe that some people have already been disappointed. I began this enterprise in perhaps our country's harshest region—that of the Andes—and here you have me. I come from the coast, but I feel that I am an adoptive highlander, and that perhaps gives me special strength. Moreover, I have always believed that it is the head which is in control. In short, I have no right to fatigue, and I do not intend to weaken. You can be sure of that. I have determination, energy, and, yes, thank God, good health.

Former Arequipa Mayor Caceres To Run for Presidency

PY2609224994 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p A3

[Text] On 8 September, Luis Caceres Velasquez, former mayor of Arequipa, confirmed that he will run for the presidency in next year's elections. He stressed that his movement, Lima Into the Year 2000, will not enter into any alliances with other political parties or movements.

Having announced that his main electoral platform would be the decentralization of the country, Caceres reported that he will officially launch his presidential campaign on 17 September during a rally at San Juan de Lurigancho, and that he will register with the JNE [National Election Board] on 5 October.

With regard to his main electoral proposal for the decentralization of the country, Caceres revealed that he will propose allocating 20 percent of the budget for municipalities and allowing local governments to administer the resources they generate as they wish.

Editorial Views Rio Group Summit Results

PY2409012894 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Sep 94 p A2

[Editorial: "Rio Summit's Achievements and Omissions"]

[Text] The critical situations in Haiti and Cuba and the proximity of the Americas Summit created an unusual level of expectation at the eighth annual Rio Group summit, which concluded recently with, for the first time, four official declarations.

It was precisely this unusual interest that made us expect results and agreements, for which the attending heads of state were insufficiently prepared and which needed prior consultation and more efficient foreign ministry and technical commission coordination.

The "Rio Declaration" proper—and the three other declarations on Haiti, Cuba, and drug trafficking—reflect the achievements, omissions, and mistakes of the two days of deliberations that sought to conduct a deeper analysis of Latin American and Caribbean problems, which are today quite similar.

Even though we did not expect the Rio Group to make decisive changes in the Haitian and Cuban situations, it was important to make an opportune and emphatic call to Raoul Cedras and Fidel Castro's dictatorships to open the necessary space for the establishment of democracy, freedoms, and respect for human rights in their countries as soon as possible.

In the case of Haiti, there was no tacit rejection of the imminent U.S. armed intervention, nor a decision to support it because of an understandable lack of consensus among Rio Group member countries.

The group merely resorted to the old and comfortable principle of non-intervention and called on those involved to seek all peaceful means before using force.

In the case of Cuba, the group's demand for free elections was balanced by a call to end the blockade of the island. The document was an answer to the dramatic situation of "raft people" heading for Florida beaches

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and a reaffirmation of a Rio Group central issue: To promote the defense of the state of law in the region.

This takes us to another Rio Group achievement: Its well-earned position as a high-level hemispheric political mechanism, where dialogue and the presidents' personal knowledge of each other have contributed, and will continue to contribute, to democratic institutions' vitality and firmness. This fact is emphasized by the golden rule saying that countries where democratic institutions are violated cannot be members.

The "Rio Declaration" confirms the current level of political dialogue, but also shows a group weakness: Excessive generalizations and the exclusion of mandates and specific commitments to implement a series of important principles.

The group lauds, for instance, the progress made by different integration processes, but says nothing about to strengthen them. There is a call to ratify pending tariff agreements, but no firm commitments are established. The document mentions various mechanisms for regional and international cooperation, but no recommendations for more adequate lines of coordination and agreement are established.

The concern of heads of state for the opening of markets, the elimination of tariff barriers, and the modernization of their economies is obvious, but the heads of state fail to seize the opportunity to establish a concrete starting point for a formal Latin American proposal at the Americas Summit convened by U.S. President Bill Clinton, particularly because this summit offers the best opportunity to elaborate an agenda for joint cooperation for the 21st century.

This is ironic, is it not?

Like the issues of Haiti and Cuba, the issue of drug trafficking needed a specific declaration to stress the importance Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori places on the need to coordinate national legislations to face the problem of money laundering, to speed up extradition petitions, and to guarantee police and judicial cooperation and to seize traffickers assets.

The Rio Summit declaration speaks of the need to place political dialogue more at the service of regional economic and social concerns, which are striving for a relevant position in bilateral and multilateral summits.

Uruguay

Economy Minister to Chile: Mercosur Wants No New Partners

PY2709024694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2111 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Sep (AFP-NA)—Uruguayan Economy Minister Ignacio De Posadas stated today that the member countries of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) are not interested in acquiring new partners, warning that Chile "will not receive special treatment" in renegotiating agreements with Mercosur.

"Talks with Chile have started, but it is obvious that we did not take all this effort to create a customs union among Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay to afterwards open up a breach below the waterline" of the negotiated common external tariff.

Chilean authorities had offered to implement tariff reductions with various schedules in order to gradually arrive at a free trade zone, but the Uruguayan minister has rejected the viability of an association of the "four-plus-one" type under those conditions.

"We submit a common proposal to all South American countries for the negotiation of future trade ties with Mercosur, and are making no exceptions with Chile," De Posadas said during an informal meeting with the press.

The four countries have offered to the other nations of the continent the adoption of "system for linear and automatic tariff reduction" that will permit the elimination over a 10-year period of customs duties that pose a barrier between Mercosur and the other countries.

"The only preferential treatment received by Chile is that of being the first official partner in these negotiations," De Posadas added.

De Posadas also rejected the possibility of incorporating a new member into Mercosur, saying that "for the time being we are very busy organizing an orchestra of four (countries) and do not have the time to think of adding a fifth" member.

Venezuela

Attorney General: Exchange Law Saved Foreign Currency

PA2509043794 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 23 Sep 94 p 11

[Text] Attorney General Jesus Petit Da Costa says the Exchange System Law, which was initially presented as a draft of the Monetary Crimes Law, prevented the total depletion of Venezuela's foreign currency as a result of its being sent abroad.

If the estimates that set the amount sent abroad at $90 billion are true, this country is bankrupt, Petit Da Costa noted.

Addressing a seminar on the subject organized by the Venezuelan Association of Executives, the attorney general said that exchange controls have been dictated by circumstances.

President Rafael Caldera had several opportunities to implement exchange controls, but he turned them down because he doubted the need for them. However, the crisis in the financial sector forced him to implement such controls.

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Petit Da Costa pointed out the need for exchange controls, the main purpose of which is to avoid the flight of foreign exchange and not to impose a system that will do away with the free convertibility of the currency.

The attorney general said the draft of the Monetary Crimes Law became the draft of the Exchange System Law and that the present government will implement controls without suspending constitutional guarantees.

The purpose of the law is to protect the principle of free convertibility, which is desirable because it would prove the existence of a healthy, robust economy that is able to compete.

However, if the economy is not healthy, robust, and able to compete, it will be imperative to defend the currency in order to strengthen the economy.

Labor Minister Calls CTV Strike 'Illegal'

PA2609004694 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Sep 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Labor Minister Juan Nepomuceno Garrido reiterated today the strike called by the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] is illegal. At the same time, the National United Federation of Public Employees [FEDE-UNEP] also has questions regarding the legality of that measure.

Public employees from all over the country attended a meeting held by the FEDE-UPEN to analyze the labor rules the government established on 7 September. The CTV, meanwhile, insists all public employees must go on strike. Public employees are receiving advise to see if the measure is legal. Labor Minister Juan Nepomuceno Garrido is adhering to his stance of dismissing or deducting pay from those workers who went on strike or plan to. Here is Labor Minister Garrido:

[Begin Garrido recording] The Labor Ministry will simply abide by the law. Employees who did not work are not entitled to their wages. That is number one. Those who staged a walkout have incurred justified cause for dismissal. And we are going to establish it that way. [end recording]

At any rate, on 3 October, the CTV will submit the list of demands, as this is the day when the 120-hour period before the strike begins. The two sides, government and employees, may request a 30-day extension to find a solution to the problem involving public employees.

Labor Minister Comments on Health Strike Negotiations

PA2609202394 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Interview with Labor Minister Juan Nepomuceno Garrido by reporter Melissa Soto at the Ministry of Labor in Caracas; from "The News" newscast—live]

[Text] [Soto] This morning we spoke to Health Minister Carlos Walter. He told us that the situation this morning is not as serious as expected. Many members of the Federation of Health Workers [Fetrasalud] have returned to work.

We are now going to talk to Labor Minister Juan Nepomuceno Garrido. Mr. Minister, earlier you said the strike was illegal. Nevertheless, the strike is going on. What are the chances of holding negotiations within the next few hours?

[Nepomuceno] I want to be honest with you. We are in constant contact with the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV] and the medical confederation. I will meet with both of these organizations today. I also wish to say there is no justification for maintaining the strike. I, on behalf of the government, recognized the outstanding debt and established a payment system. This has all been finalized, because it was accepted by the workers associations. If they later refused to sign the minutes, it is because they want the government to annul the Labor Law. The government cannot do this.

If the country and the people have suffered some sort of loss, those who broke the law must face the consequences the law itself spells out. That is why it is not true that I assumed an arrogant or threatening position. I just played the part of the school teacher and told them that the law has consequences for those who do not obey it. In doing this, I believe I have served the nation well, because I am teaching them a part of the law they should all know. It is also not true that there is a military occupation of the health services. There are national guardsman at some of the centers to enable patients to receive medical attention. It seems that several picket lines have irresponsibly prevented people from coming in to receive emergency treatment or to pick up medicine they urgently need, for things such as children with diarrhea, blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes. The government cannot let that happen. The people's health comes first and foremost over any other interest.

[Soto] Mr. Minister, have you received any salary suspension requests against any health workers for not meeting their obligations?

[Nepomuceno] We have begun to receive some. We took time to monitor the situation at the beginning. I called on the workers about 10 days ago to offer their services to prevent the consequences outlined by the law. This was not a threat. It was not arrogance. It was simply making sure each one of us did his job. I would like to take this opportunity to make something else clear. We have a meeting scheduled tomorrow with the employees to study the regulations package. This is very different from the postponement published in the official gazette of another meeting we had scheduled with the workers. Therefore, as you can see, none of the meetings has been canceled.

The ministry is continuing the dialogue process, which includes the labor regulation meetings and the meetings with the CTV and Fetrasalud. I will be meeting with the CTV Directorate in just a few minutes. We want everyone to understand our position. We do not want the people to be misinformed, and we do not want to be accused of practices we have never engaged in.

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